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Ontario's Heritage

a celebration of conservation



ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Ontario's Heritage

Ontario's Heritage

a celebration of conservation



A not-for-profit agency
of the Government of Ontario

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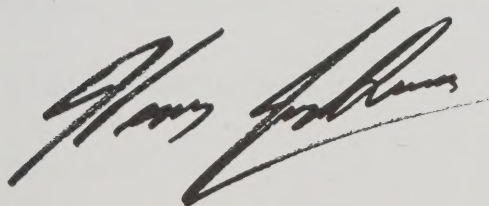
A Message from the Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman,
former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

February 14, 1997

As the thirty-ninth Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the position originally held by John Graves Simcoe from 1791 to 1796, I am in a unique position to congratulate the Ontario Heritage Foundation on the publication of this volume.

As the province's lead heritage agency, the Foundation has laboured for thirty years to uphold its broad mandate to preserve all facets of Ontario's Heritage. This heritage is not limited to the buildings or traditions of the past two hundred years, but encompasses everything which has influenced our province since the land was formed millions of years ago.

I commend the Ontario Heritage Foundation on the publication of this book. It speaks to today's definition of heritage, while celebrating the people and events which brought us here.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry N.R. Jackman". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "H" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Henry N.R. Jackman

This book was inspired by the rich and varied heritage
of the land and the people of Ontario

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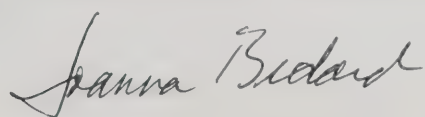
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Foreword

The creation of the Ontario Heritage Foundation in Canada's centennial year reflected a growing appreciation among Ontarians of the importance of their heritage. Since then the Foundation's activities have diversified as the people of the province have grown increasingly concerned about a widening range of heritage issues. The Foundation has restored old buildings, collected valuable cultural artifacts, conducted important archaeological research, marked hundreds of historic sites across the province and helped preserve vital natural sites. The thirtieth anniversary of the Foundation seemed an appropriate occasion to pause and take stock of its work to date.

The conservation stories presented in these pages are about partnerships between the Foundation and the people it serves. They tell about projects, large and small, that have enriched the lives of individuals and communities by strengthening their stewardship of the land and the past. There is a teaching among the First Nations peoples of the province that we should govern our actions by considering their impact upon the seventh generation to come. An appreciation of heritage brings us this type of long-term perspective, elevating our vision of life and enriching us as human beings. By remembering and celebrating our past we can inform the present and influence the future.

We offer this volume to the public as a record, not only of the Foundation's accomplishments over the past thirty years, but also of the achievements of the people of Ontario. Together, we have come to an increased understanding that our heritage is the sum of many diverse parts.



Joanna Bedard
Chair



Lesley Lewis
Executive Director

Preface

This book began as a special project, but soon evolved into a contemporary workplace legend known simply as “The Book”. When we set out to write about the work of the Ontario Heritage Foundation over the past thirty years, we knew that we would have a lot of material to draw upon. Nevertheless, we were not prepared for the sheer volume and diversity of information we uncovered. The Foundation has over 1,350 heritage sites across Ontario. These sites are recognized by provincial plaques, protected with conservation easements or held in trust by the Foundation. The organization has also been involved in hundreds of other projects that have addressed all kinds of conservation issues and challenges. These projects have generated thousands of records, photographs and related material.

The only way to deal with such an overwhelming amount of material was to be ruthlessly selective. We decided to feature Foundation projects that best represented different elements of Ontario’s heritage. The result, we hope, will enhance the reader’s appreciation of the heritage conservation field across the province and within its regions.

Ontario’s Heritage is a celebration of conservation which tells stories about projects undertaken by the Foundation in cooperation with individuals and organizations across the province. The accomplishments it records are the result of hard work by many different people: community activists and volunteers, Foundation board members and staff, and staff of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. We wish to thank all of those involved, both past and present, for their commitment to the cause of heritage. It was you who made these stories possible.

The inspiration for a book such as this came as the Foundation’s board of directors considered how to implement the Foundation’s long-term vision, specifically, its goals to raise the profile of heritage conservation and disseminate information about significant heritage resources and the role of the Foundation in their protection. Thank you to all who participated in these deliberations.

Ontario’s Heritage could never have been completed without the work and support of many of the Foundation’s current staff members. There are three individuals who deserve to be recognized for very different and important reasons. Lesley Lewis, the Foundation’s Executive Director, displayed unwavering commitment to the project from conception to completion. We are fortunate to have had her leadership and support. Paul Bator managed the project, coordinating the contributions of consultants, team members and other staff. The

conservation stories that fill the book's case studies and sidebars reflect his knowledge of Ontario's history and his ability to distil a vast amount of information from files and colleagues. Finally, Paul Litt managed, within a short time period, to write the text of the book, which included piecing together a historical context for the Foundation's work from the histories of different conservation traditions. Thank you all for your good humour through long hours of work.

I would also like to thank other Foundation staff for their expert advice and enthusiastic assistance. Ian Kenyon developed databases to help establish the information base for the book. Others contributed research and drafted material on their areas of expertise, commented on early drafts of chapters and pitched in to proofread and tie up loose ends. The professional staff of the Foundation who contributed material include Jeremy Collins and Peter Elliott (easements), Roger Martin and Paul Smith (natural heritage), Denis Héroux (architecture, and Franco-Ontario), Dená Doroszenko (archaeology), and Simonette Seon-Milette (collections). Brian Rogers, our longest-serving staff member, provided managerial assistance as well as oral history. Myrna Maclean helped collect and input many of the plaque texts presented in sidebars. Susan Patterson and Kathy Gray helped organize layout and, along with Romas Bubelis, index the book. Ed Hong and Bernice Bradt computerized parts of the indexing, and disciplined the computers whenever they failed to obey. Catherine Axford and John Ecker provided many helpful suggestions and comments. Mary Ellen Perkins consulted on questions of proper usage of the English language and provided fresh eyes for copy-editing. This is only a partial listing of what has been a collaborative effort by a dedicated group of individuals. To these staff members, and all the other staff of the Foundation who assumed additional duties to assist with the project, I am deeply grateful. If I have left anyone out, it is because I am forgetful, not unappreciative.

The book was edited by Robert Fraser, who aside from catching errors both grammatical and historical, provided much needed humour and support at important times during production. Book design was by Rob Fujimoto and Todd Fujimoto of Stray Toaster. The wonderful maps in the book were created by Katrin Dockrill. At the end of the project timelines were tight, and we appreciate their cooperation in providing high quality work within a short time frame. To all of these contributors I express my thanks.

Richard Moorhouse
Director of Heritage Programs and Project Director

Introduction

This book is an overview of heritage conservation in Ontario as practiced by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. *Ontario's Heritage* depicts the Foundation's efforts to conserve heritage in all its variety, natural as well as cultural. It presents conservation projects conducted by the Foundation within a narrative text that sketches the broader context of the province's heritage.

Heritage is anything inherited that we value and wish to preserve for future generations. Heritage conservation involves selecting those parts of our heritage that we wish to save and taking practical steps to conserve them. The Foundation is a provincial agency that works in partnership with Ontarians to help them achieve their heritage goals. Its projects reflect both what citizens of the province have chosen to save and what the Foundation can do to assist in such endeavours.

The Foundation approaches conservation as a three-stage process that proceeds from identification, through protection and preservation, to interpretation and use. Projects may be identified by the Foundation or the community, but in either case community interest and support is necessary both to justify conservation and to ensure continued stewardship of the resource. In this way, knowledge is generated, community awareness is heightened and the cause of heritage is advanced. The process can be as significant as the final product.

The Foundation also takes a comprehensive approach to conservation that integrates the knowledge and expertise of archaeologists, architects, biologists, historians, museologists, planners and property managers. Its project teams combine representatives of these and other heritage disciplines. Each contributes to our understanding of a heritage subject and each benefits from the insights gained from alternative perspectives. This approach ensures that both preservation and interpretation are fully realized.

The Foundation has a range of conservation techniques at its disposal. It began as a trust organization which could own property and provide grants.

It later assumed the provincial plaque program, which enabled it to mark significant heritage sites in the province. During the 1970s, the Foundation began to use easement agreements to protect heritage properties and expanded its grants to fund heritage projects such as books and archaeological excavations.

The Foundation's conservation techniques and its comprehensive, three-stage conservation strategy are reflected in the projects featured in the pages that follow. These projects also display the distinctive heritage of different parts of the province. The organization of the book reflects these regional identities. After Chapter One, each succeeding chapter focuses on a particular region and provides a brief overview of its heritage. Against this background, the heritage conservation activities of the Foundation are presented in sidebars, case studies, and photo studies.

The historical context of the Foundation's work is outlined briefly in Chapter One, which reviews the conservation tradition in Ontario and the Foundation's involvement in the field. The term conservation is used to describe heritage activities that preceded the rise of the heritage movement in the 1960s. In an effort to identify the origins of the contemporary movement, the diverse activities of conservation groups are divided into two general categories, natural and cultural conservation. It should be noted, however, that these terms have been imposed retroactively and may not reflect the language of conservation at the time.

The result is a selective overview of the Foundation's most significant activities rather than a comprehensive history of the organization. Readers who are interested in practical information on the Foundation's approach to the conservation of built heritage should consult *Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Foundation's Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation* (1989). *Ontario's Heritage* highlights projects that reflect the full range of heritage subjects and conservation techniques employed by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. It can be sampled randomly for a general survey of heritage conservation within the province, or read cover-to-cover for an in-depth understanding of the Foundation's work.

Legend

The different conservation tools and heritage disciplines involved in the Foundation's work are identified in the text by the following icons:



Ownership

Foundation owns the property and holds it in trust.



Plaque*

Foundation has erected a provincial plaque to the individual, subject or event.



Grant

Foundation has provided funding in support of the activity.



Easement

Foundation holds in trust a heritage conservation easement on the property.



Books

Foundation has provided funding support for the research or production of the listed book(s).



Archaeology



Natural Heritage



Built Heritage



Collections/Artifacts

*A plaque icon indicates that a provincial plaque has been erected by the Foundation. In some cases sidebars reproduce the original plaque text; in others its content is summarized. Readers who are interested in more information on provincial plaques should consult *Discover Your Heritage: A Guide to Provincial Plaques in Ontario* (1989) by Mary Ellen Perkins.

Chapter One

THE CONSERVING ETHIC



The White Trillium, Floral Emblem of Ontario.

"I am most anxious that more stress should be laid on the history of our province and country and that public interest should be created. We are a young country and we have yet to develop a sense of history which is so important."

Leslie Frost, 1953.

Centennial year, 1967. Bobby Gimby singing CA-NA-DA, schoolchildren pasting together scrapbooks on Confederation, families visiting Expo '67 for their summer holidays. It was a time when Canadians paused to appreciate who they were, reflect on where they came from, and even indulge in a little self-congratulation.

Canadians also marked the centennial by launching civic improvement projects, many of which involved preserving their heritage. Communities started museums, cleaned up creek beds, erected monuments and established parks. People acted on the conviction that conservation of the natural environment and the past they shared was fundamental to the well-being of their communities.

The Province of Ontario reflected the spirit of the times when it created the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1967. Modelled in part after England's National Trust, the Foundation's initial mandate was to conserve heritage property for the benefit of all citizens of the province. In the years since its creation the Foundation has developed into a multifaceted agency involved in a wide range of heritage issues. While changes in the policies and resources of the provincial government have had a significant impact upon its activities, its evolution has also reflected the rapid diversification of the heritage field.





For further information on rock art in Ontario, consult Grace Rajnovich, *Reading Rock Art: Interpreting The Indian Rock Paintings of the Canadian Shield* (1994), published with funding from the Foundation.

"The impulse to preserve and cherish one's heritage is central to the identity of a family or a people, and to the very idea of humanity itself. It is as much part of the survival instinct as the quest for food and shelter."

William Kilbourn, 1983



Rock Art, Cuttle Lake, Rainy River District.

The heritage impulse that sustains the Foundation is a fundamental aspect of human nature that is evident even in fragments of ancient cultures that survive today. At many sites in Ontario, rock paintings record for posterity images created by people who lived here thousands of years ago. Native peoples also used wampum belts and oral traditions to transmit cultural information from one generation to the next. Their close relationship with nature was reflected in religious beliefs in which spirits inhabited plants and animals, wind and water, rocks in the ground and stars in the heavens. First Nations people lived off the resources of the land without significantly altering the natural environment. The importance of heritage to the survival of a culture is evident today in their efforts to revitalize key elements of their traditional way of life and pass them on to future generations.

Until quite recently, the history of European settlement in what is now Ontario was characterized by separate traditions of natural and cultural conservation. The two streams grew at varying rates and received different levels of support from the provincial government over the years. In some cases government involvement in conservation was motivated by the economic pragmatism of business interests. At other times, public opinion inspired by more idealistic concerns prompted the government to act.



Blue Racer Snake.

Natural conservation ran contrary to prevailing attitudes in nineteenth-century Upper Canada. The pioneers who first cleared the forest regarded nature as a source of riches to be harvested through hard work and ingenuity. The story of their progress was written on a landscape transformed from forest to farmland within a few decades. Settlement was followed by rapid industrial development. The small water-powered mills of pioneer days were supplanted by industrial establishments employing dozens of workers. In the latter part of the century, steam trains, steamboats and steam-powered factories were the pride of the age. Social improvement was associated with economic growth, which in turn depended on industrialization and technological innovation.

Although the exploitation of natural resources sustained the economic progress of the colony, there were early signs that nature's bounty was not unlimited. In 1807, for example, a sharp decline in the run of Atlantic salmon on Lake Ontario prompted the legislature to pass an Act for the Preservation of Salmon.

ONTARIO'S NAMES, PAST AND PRESENT

In the days of New France, the area that is now Ontario was part of "le pays d'en haut", or "the upper country". From 1763-1791 it was part of the province of Quebec, a British colony. The Constitutional Act of 1791 divided Quebec into Upper Canada and Lower Canada. During the Union of the Canadas (1841-1867), Upper Canada was also known as Canada West. At Confederation it was renamed Ontario, an Iroquoian word sometimes translated as "beautiful water".



Arctic Fox.

Similar fishing and hunting laws, introduced on a piecemeal basis until the end of the century, were the first examples of intervention by the government to foster conservation. The rationale was a pragmatic recognition that certain resources had to be sustained if they were to support continuous exploitation.

In spite of such efforts, by the 1890s the Atlantic salmon, eastern sub-species of elk, passenger pigeon, wild turkey and cougar had virtually disappeared from Ontario. The Royal Commission on Fish and Game (1892) warned about the consequences of unregulated slaughter of wildlife. Local rod and gun clubs supported the commission's recommendations for tougher game laws and a system of game wardens to enforce them. Within the year, the Act for the Protection of Game and Fur-Bearing Animals was passed. The following year, the province established Algonquin Park, its first provincial park, in part to provide a breeding sanctuary for threatened wildlife. The creation of the park was also a response to pressure from business interests who depended on rivers originating in the area to transport logs and power factories.



"First Forestry Station", provincial plaque unveiling, 1957, St. Williams.

Second from the left is Dr. E.J. Zavitz, founder of Canada's first forestry station. Leslie Gray, far right, was a long-serving member of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

A similar economic pragmatism was implicit in the scientific farming practices promoted by agricultural societies to prevent soil exhaustion, an extreme problem in areas with light or sandy soils stabilized primarily by tree roots. Once cleared, these areas were quickly eroded by wind and water, degenerating into wastelands that continually deposited silt into nearby streams. In 1908, the province established tree nurseries and began reforesting barren areas. Later it would consolidate its natural conservation activities – parks, game laws and reforestation – within the Department of Lands and Forests, the predecessor of today's Ministry of Natural Resources.

The province's efforts in natural conservation greatly exceeded its role in cultural conservation during this period. In part, this fact reflected a lack of broad public interest in the past. Conscious efforts to foster an Upper Canadian identity around the loyalist experience and the War of 1812 foundered upon the diversity of the immigrant experience.



Brock Monument.

Efforts to preserve public memory of the War of 1812 began shortly after the war's end. The most notable example was the building of the Brock monument on Queenston Heights, where war hero General Sir Isaac Brock fell in battle.



Janet Carnochan

Commemorative Service

Sunday, June 3, 1984
Niagara-on-the-Lake

"Miss Janet"
1839 - 1926



a tribute by: **THE HONOURABLE ROBERT WELCH, Q.C.**
M.P.P. for Brock
Deputy Premier of Ontario
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues

11:00 a.m. — **MEMORIAL SERVICE**
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

2:30 p.m. — **PLAQUE CEREMONY**
Niagara Historical Society Museum



JANET CARNOCHAN

Janet Carnochan, a school teacher in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was one of the early promoters of local history in Ontario. She was the key figure behind the formation of the Niagara Historical Society and of the opening, in 1906, of Memorial Hall, one of the first community museums in the province. The Foundation also has provincial plaques commemorating the efforts of other promoters of local history such as the Honourable James Young, a politician and local historian in Galt, Henry Scadding, an Anglican clergyman who published the first local histories of Toronto and played an important role in the founding of the Ontario Historical Society, and John Ross Robertson, the publisher of the Toronto Telegram, who wrote on Toronto's past paying particular attention to its architecture. (A provincial plaque to Carnochan is located in Niagara-on-the-Lake.)

Plaque unveiling program.

At mid-century, the passing of the pioneer era prompted efforts to save artifacts, collect documents and write local history. Historical societies were formed in older communities across the province. An interest in history was also stimulated by the patriotic feelings stirred by Confederation. One result of this activity was the founding of the first lasting provincial organization in the field, the Pioneer Association of Ontario, in 1888.

Government support for cultural conservation came slowly and on a small scale. Late in the nineteenth century, the province awarded small annual grants to support some archaeological and historical work. Partly in response to pressure from the Pioneer Association, now renamed the Ontario Historical Society (OHS), it formed the Ontario Archives in 1903. Between 1905 and 1909, when

the City of Toronto tried repeatedly to build a streetcar line through historic Fort York, the provincial government listened sympathetically to conservationists' arguments and intervened to save the site. In these cases, the province proved capable of acting in the interests of cultural conservation, albeit in response to direct pressure from influential groups. But its commitment to the province's cultural inheritance was inconsistent. Although the OHS lobbied relentlessly for a provincial museum, in 1912 the province gave its new Royal Ontario Museum a scientific and international focus.



United Empire Loyalists gather for a memorial tree planting ceremony at Queen's Park in 1901.

By the late nineteenth century the pioneer's obsession with clearing the land no longer dominated all other views of nature. The popular middle-class hobby of natural history developed out of a growing public interest in science. Intrigued by the controversy over Charles Darwin's theory of the evolution of species and beguiled by scientific methods, enthusiasts collected and catalogued specimens of plants, insects and animals. They banded together in naturalists clubs and, in some instances, set up museums based on their collections.



Barnum House, Grafton



Barnum House, c. 1925.

*E*liakim Barnum was in his early twenties when he emigrated from the United States in 1807. He chose to settle in Haldimand Township near the village of Grafton (then called Haldimand) on the north shore of Lake Ontario, a few miles east of present-day Cobourg. By 1819, Barnum owned over 900 acres of land, a thriving milling business, a tavern and a distillery. His business success made him an influential citizen in early Haldimand Township. A loyal Tory, Barnum was a Justice of the Peace, a founder of St. George's Anglican Church in Grafton, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the local militia. He also helped start the first school in the township in 1820 – perhaps because he and his wife Hannah had five children. His oldest son, Smith Barnum, would become the first Warden of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham in 1849.

In 1819 Barnum built a stylish house which stands today as one of Ontario's finest examples of Neo-Classical architecture. The building's composition is formal, with two symmetrical wings flanking a central temple structure. The façade of Barnum House is articulated with pilasters linked by elliptical arches. Its architectural detail is extensive and delicately scaled. Neo-



"Barnum House".

Provincial plaque unveiling, 1958, Barnum House, Grafton.



Barnum House restored 1991

Classical houses were popular in New England in the early nineteenth century. American experiments with the style were in turn inspired by British examples, particularly the work of the leading proponents of Neo-Classical, architects Robert and James Adam.

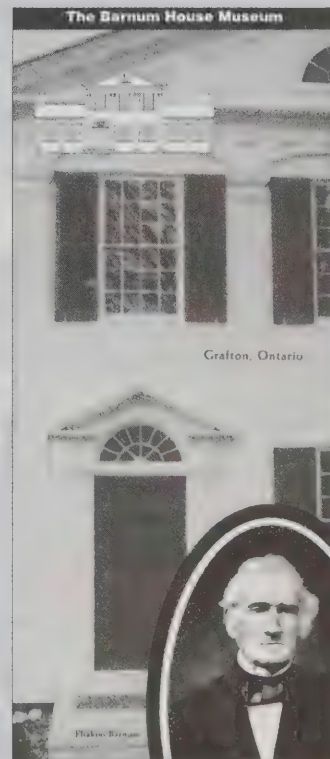
The house remained in the ownership of the Barnum family until 1917, when it was sold to Harry Prentice. The significance of the house was recognized by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO), a private organization founded in 1933 to preserve the province's architectural heritage. The Conservancy acquired Barnum House from the Prentice family in 1940, refurbished it in its early style and opened it to the public as the province's first period house museum. In 1958 the ACO presented the house to the Township of Haldimand, which continued to operate it as a museum until 1982 when ownership was transferred to the Foundation.

The Foundation has conducted an extensive restoration of Barnum House. Original paint colours and wallpaper were reproduced to show Eliakim and Hannah's decor of the 1820-1840 period. At the rear of the house, where an original drive shed once stood, a two-storey addition was constructed to house facilities necessary to support the house as a museum and community heritage resource centre. In June of 1991, the house was reopened to the public. It is operated by the Foundation's local partner, the Barnum House Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to its preservation and promotion. Barnum house was designated a National Historic Site in 1959.

CYCLE OF CONSERVATION

BARNUM HOUSE ILLUSTRATES THE THREE STAGES OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION:

1. IDENTIFICATION BY THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO (1933)
2. PRESERVATION BY THE FOUNDATION'S ACQUISITION (1982), AND RESTORATION OF THE BUILDING (1989-1991)
3. INTERPRETATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS THROUGH THE FOUNDATION'S GUIDE FOR VISITORS TO THE SITE, (1991 ONWARDS)



Foundation's brochure on Barnum House.



JACK MINER, 1865-1944

A noted naturalist, John Thomas Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, and in 1878 settled north of Kingsville, Ontario. In 1904 he established his world famous bird sanctuary, primarily for the conservation of migrating Canada geese and ducks. Five years later he began banding waterfowl to determine their subsequent movements. During his life Miner lectured extensively throughout North America on wildlife conservation. To perpetuate his work, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in the United States in 1931 and in Canada in 1936. Author of two books on bird life and conservation, he was awarded the O.B.E in 1943 "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire". [Kingsville]

The popularity of natural history reflected a growing interest in nature that accompanied the development of industrial cities in Ontario. Wilderness tourism increased in popularity as middle-class Victorians looked to nature as a refuge from modern urban life. Some, inspired by Romantic poetry, searched in nature for transcendent experiences and spiritual renewal. A belief in the aesthetic power of nature would be reflected in the work of Ontario artists from the Confederation poets to the Group of Seven painters. For others, sanitary concerns prevailed: nature was attractive because, unlike urban centres of disease and pollution, it was perceived to be a clean and healthy environment.



Jack Miner.



DAVID BOYLE, 1842-1911

Born in Scotland, Boyle came to Canada in 1856 and settled in Elora. As a local school teacher, he began an extensive collection of native artifacts and became an archaeological authority. Boyle moved to Toronto in 1883 and three years later was appointed the first Curator of the Provincial Archaeological Museum, then housed in the Canadian Institute Building. Dedicated to the study and retention of artifacts within Ontario, he initiated an active programme of excavation and acquisition. Between 1887 and 1907 Boyle edited a noted series, the *Annual Archaeological Reports*, published under the auspices of the Ontario Department of Education. Through his work on Ontario prehistory, Boyle gained international recognition as a leading Canadian archaeologist and anthropologist. [Elora]

The Foundation also has provincial plaques commemorating two other notable early Ontario archaeologists, Andrew Frederick Hunter and William Wintemberg.

Naturalists, artists and tourists shared an appreciation of pristine nature that contrasted sharply with the tendency of hunters and business to view nature as a sustainable resource. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, founded in 1931, provided a provincial organization to express this view. In 1934, it published *Sanctuaries and the Preservation of Wild Life in Ontario*, which questioned natural conservation based on economic pragmatism and suggested that wilderness should be preserved intact as a resource for recreation, scientific study and education.

In the twentieth century, conservation efforts were often inspired by interest in fostering a sense of Canadian identity. Canada's contributions in the First World War stimulated national pride and feelings of independence that were amplified further by the Second World War. The waves of nationalism that followed both wars were expressed in an increased interest in Canadian culture and identity, matters informed by an appreciation of the land and its past.



David Boyle.



Patrons of Conservation: Ontario's Premiers

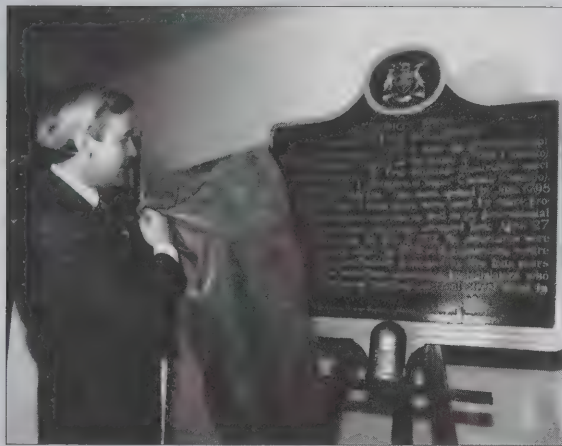


"Fort Rouillé", provincial plaque unveiling, 1957, Toronto.

Premier Leslie Frost (far left) with Toronto Mayor Nathan Phillips (far right).

The influence of Leslie M. Frost, Premier of Ontario from 1948 until 1961, was critical in increasing the province's involvement in conserving the past in the 1950s. His government's role in historical preservation began when it held a conference on tourism at Niagara Falls in 1949. The contribution of local history in promoting tourism emerged as an important conference theme, prompting the government to organize a special conference on provincial history at Queen's Park in January 1950. As a result of this second conference, the Frost government created a historical advisory body. After the passing of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act in 1953, the historical advisory body was superseded by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario. Later that same year, Frost announced an annual grant of \$5,000 for a period of at least four years to launch The Champlain Society's documentary series on the early history of Ontario.

The government may not have taken these initiatives if the premier himself had not been fascinated by the past. Frost was particularly interested in the local histories of his home town of Lindsay and his native town of Crillia. He followed the work of the Historic Sites Board with interest and attended numerous unveiling ceremonies for provincial plaques. His love of history was evident in two books he wrote after his retirement: **Fighting Men** (1967), the story of the 20th Battalion from Lindsay in the First World War, and **Forgotten Pathways of the Trent** (1973), a study of First Nations and European activities in the Trent region prior to settlement.



The Honourable David Peterson unveils a plaque commemorating Ontario's first parliament buildings in Toronto in 1988.

The provincial plaque program has also enjoyed the support of Leslie Frost's successors. These photographs show Ontario premiers who have unveiled plaques during the forty years the provincial plaque program has been in existence.



The only premier to have unveiled a plaque commemorating himself is the Honourable C.D. Drury, premier during the administration of the United Farmers of Ontario from 1919 to 1923. He is shown here at the unveiling in 1962 at Crown Hill in Simcoe County.



Premier William Davis at the unveiling of a provincial plaque commemorating John McRae, author of "In Flanders' Fields," at McRae's burial place in Wimereux, France in 1972. The figure on the far right is historian Sydney Wise who later became the fourth Chair of the Foundation. William Cranston, then a board member of both the Foundation and the Historic Sites Board, can be seen in the background.



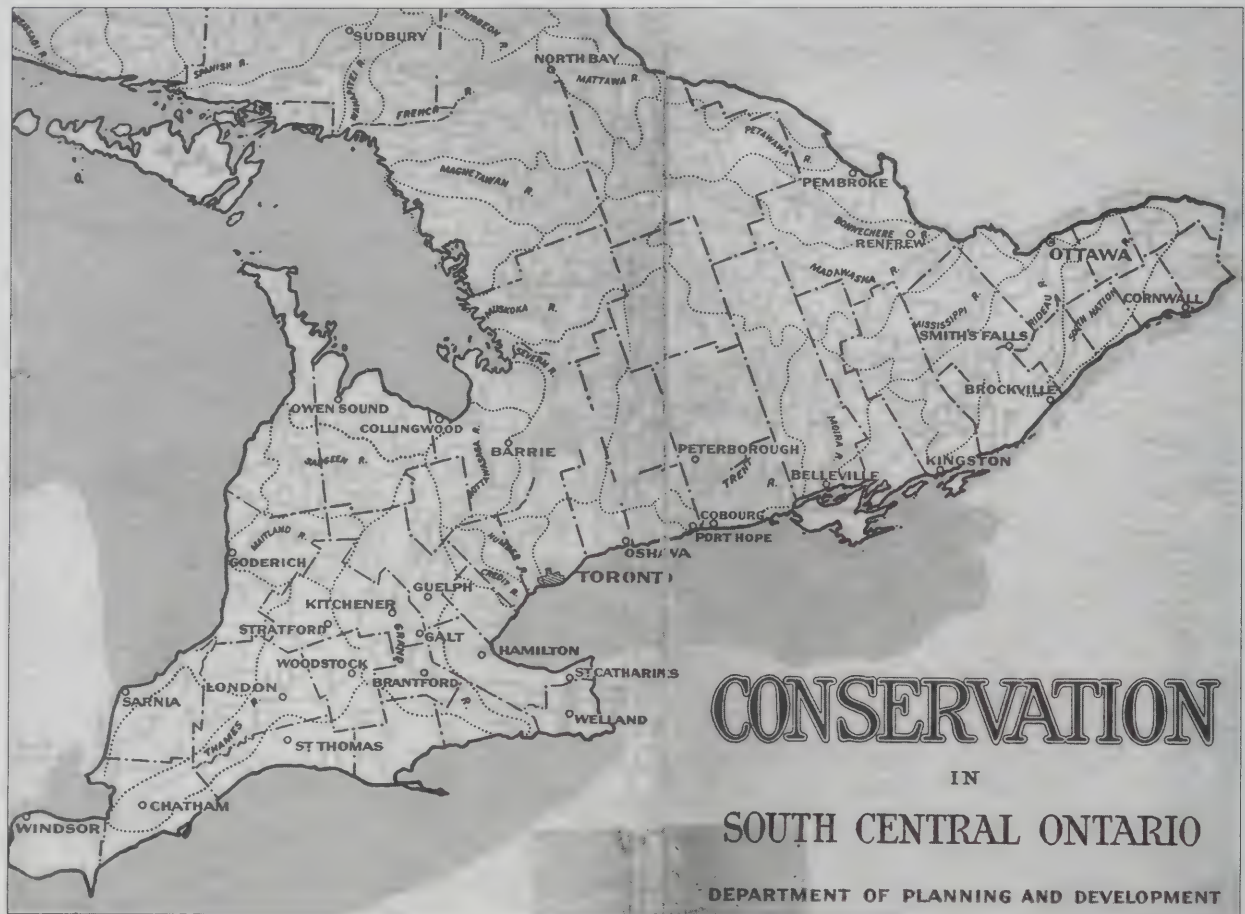
The Honourable John Robarts with a provincial plaque to John A. Macdonald that was erected in Scotland in 1965. At the left is the Honourable James Auld, Minister of the Department of Tourism and Information. William Cranston, then co-chairman of the Historic Sites Board, is on the premier's right.



CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Since their beginnings in the late 1940s, conservation authorities have been the main actors in natural conservation on the local level across the province. Although they were initiated primarily to deal with soil erosion, their flood control activities put them in the public spotlight after Hurricane Hazel devastated part of Toronto in 1954. The authorities have always made the conservation of natural heritage property one of their priorities. By 1996, over 120,000 hectares, including some of Ontario's finest natural heritage areas, was owned by the thirty-eight conservation authorities in the province. The authorities frequently work in partnership with the Foundation on natural heritage projects and are the custodians of over half of the natural heritage lands owned by the Foundation.

The connection between nationalism and cultural conservation was expressed in a variety of ways. During the 1930s, some university professors began to regard Canada's past as an independent field of study rather than as a subordinate part of imperial history. Eric Arthur, a professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, became fascinated with the province's architectural history and sent students across Ontario to draw old buildings. The Depression prompted the province to initiate make-work projects which restored Fort Henry in Kingston and Fort Erie, Fort George, Navy Hall and Mackenzie House in the Niagara region.



An example of one of the many conservation studies produced by Ontario's Department of Planning and Development from the 1940s to the 1960s.

The province also took steps to improve the conservation of farmlands. By the 1930s it was apparent that its reforestation program, although useful, could not eradicate soil erosion on its own. Drought in 1936 aggravated the problem, prompting municipal officials to form the Ontario Conservation and Reforestation



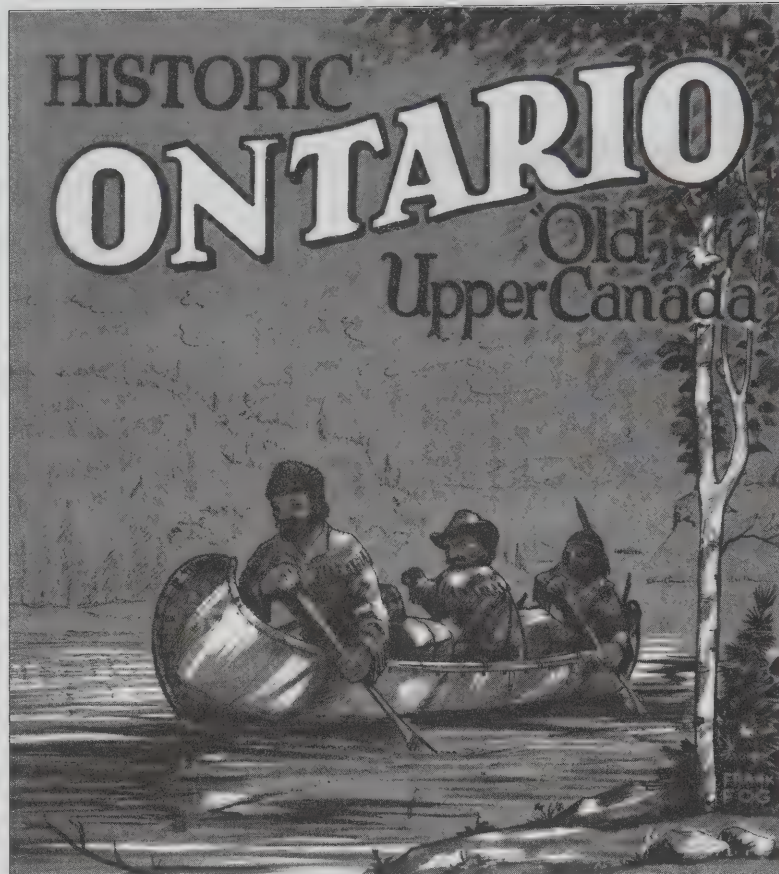
"Queen's Park", provincial plaque unveiling, 1956, Toronto.

Association. This group laid the groundwork for a system of conservation authorities created under the Conservation Authorities Act of 1946.

The Second World War made Ontario's political culture more amenable to conservation initiatives. The successful war effort was coordinated by interventionist governments whose spending pulled the economy out of the Depression. Canadians hoped that governments would be as active after the war in planning for a prosperous and an equitable society. Politicians and bureaucrats emerged from the war years with a robust faith in rational planning. It was no coincidence that the provincial overseer of conservation authorities, created in 1944, was called the Department of Planning and Development.

By the 1950s the provincial government was ready to undertake an initiative to conserve archaeological sites. Some were susceptible to looting because their locations were well-known; others were liable to be bulldozed during the postwar boom in property development. The province addressed these concerns by passing the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act in 1953. It set out a process for designating important sites and required anyone excavating a designated property to have a permit issued by the government.

The Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act also provided for the creation of a board to advise the Minister of Education on designations. The Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario (which would become



Historic Ontario.

known as the Historic Sites Board) soon found its efforts frustrated by limitations in the act, which failed to provide any means of compensating or otherwise influencing uncooperative property owners. As a result, only a handful of archaeological and historic properties were protected.

Although it was frustrated in its primary task, the Board quickly adapted and found other ways to justify its existence. It subsidized archaeological digs on the grounds that it needed information on sites in order to consider their suitability for designation. It also decided that if it could not designate properties, it might at least mark them and for this purpose adopted a distinctive blue and gold provincial plaque that is still in use today. By the time it was transferred to the Department of Travel and Publicity in 1956, the Board had come to think of itself as an agent of public education in the conservation field. It advised the department on technical and financial assistance to museums, published archaeological reports and oversaw the preparation of historical literature sent to tourist bureaus. Over 10,000 copies of its main publication, *Historic Ontario*, were distributed through school systems.

The Board used staff from the Department of Travel and Publicity to operate its programs. Its activities grew, leading to the creation of a historical branch within the department in 1958. This was a significant step for conservation in Ontario: professions concerned with cultural conservation – history,



A.B.R. Lawrence, the Foundation's third Chair, middle, on left, Henri Delougee, Mayor of Brovage, right, Alan Lawles, unveiling plaque to Samuel de Champlain in Brovage, France, 1975.

archaeology and museology – now were represented within the provincial civil service along with their natural conservation counterparts in the Department of Lands and Forests.

The plaque program alerted the public to the existence of a provincial body responsible for preserving the past and soon the Historic Sites Board was inundated with requests for help with saving old buildings, funding voluntary organizations, fixing up cemeteries and reconstructing historical sites. Usually its limited powers prevented it from assisting such efforts.



PROVINCIAL PLAQUES OUTSIDE OF ONTARIO

There are twenty-two Foundation plaques marking sites outside of Canada that are of importance to Ontario's heritage.

The Archaeological and Historic Sites Board and the Foundation both benefited immensely over the years from the voluntary contributions of board members. William Cranston was a key figure in the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board from its first meeting. Cranston was a native of the Midland area and an avid promoter of its past. He was particularly interested in the Jesuit missions to the Huron (or Wendat, as they called themselves), and the provincially-funded reconstruction of the Jesuit mission, Ste. Marie Among the Hurons. Cranston was active in the Conservative Party and an able ambassador for the work of the Historic Sites Board within the government.



William Cranston of the Historic Sites Board addresses the crowd at the unveiling of a provincial plaque commemorating David Allanson Jones, Canada's first commercial beekeeper, at Beeton in 1957.

Professor J.M.S. Careless, a Canadian historian from the University of Toronto, was another original member of the Historic Sites Board. He chaired a committee of the board that prepared a detailed proposal for a historic trust that ultimately resulted in the creation of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Careless was a tireless promoter of Ontario's history in both the academic and popular realms. After the Historic Sites Board and the Foundation amalgamated, he served on the OHF Board until 1982. Professor Careless was also instrumental in the formation of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario in 1976.



J.M.S. Careless, second from right, at the unveiling of a provincial plaque to the First Jewish Congregation in Canada West, 1969, Toronto.

The Board was particularly frustrated by its inability to preserve and restore historic buildings. In 1955 it recommended that Ontario establish a body like the National Trust in England. It pressed the government on this point repeatedly over the years. Over time its requests were reinforced by public opinion. As the economy expanded in the 1960s, the real estate market boomed. Old buildings fell to the wrecking ball to make way for modern developments; farmers' fields sprouted subdivisions and industrial parks. Many people were disquieted by the rapid transformation of their environment. Residents of older neighbourhoods began to appreciate the charms of traditional architecture and established streetscapes. Public concern about development made conservation issues more prominent in the municipal politics of small towns and big cities alike and demands for greater controls and more public participation in land use planning grew more frequent and forceful.

Many of the tensions generated by these changes coalesced around the issue of preserving historic buildings. Although many people saw newer and bigger buildings as symbols of prosperity and progress, others regretted the loss of tangible parts of their local history. Community activists argued that historical landmarks had a public worth that outweighed the owners' right to redevelop them for profit.

These conservationists were not against progress, but they did not believe that anything new was necessarily better. To promote their point of view they popularized the term "heritage" as a progressive-sounding synonym for conservation. Initially, the term was applied exclusively to their efforts to preserve old buildings. Activists ensured that their confrontations with developers made the news. Not only did their cause receive publicity in the media, it also gained legitimacy through the publication of well-received books such as Marion McRae's and Anthony Adamson's *The Ancestral Roof* (1963); Eric Arthur's *Toronto: No Mean City* (1965); and Margaret Angus's *The Old Stones of Kingston* (1966).

These developments boosted the Historic Sites Board's campaign for a trust organization. It was not an unrealistic request for the times. Governments at all levels were increasingly involved in preserving the past. In 1967 dozens of municipalities commemorated the centennial by opening local museums, many of them in historic buildings restored for the purpose. Conservation authorities preserved pioneer structures and some even operated reconstructed historical villages.

The province had taken on high-profile reconstruction projects at Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg and Ste. Marie Among the Hurons near Midland and would soon undertake another, Old Fort William, at Thunder Bay.

THE FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation's first board of directors consisted of Chair Frederick Wade, a retired insurance executive and Vice-Chairman of the Metro Toronto Conservation Authority, William Cranston (see opposite page), William Goulding, a professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, Stuart Carver, a businessman, Richard Dumbrille, a director of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and John Langdon, former editor of the *Financial Post* (who would become, in 1972, the second Chair of the Foundation). Both Cranston and Goulding also sat on the Historic Sites Board.

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION CHAIRS

Frederick Wade	1968-1972
John Langdon	1972-1974
A.B.R. Lawrence	1974-1980
Sydney Wise	1980-1981
John White	1981-1986
G.H.U. "Terk" Bayly	1986-1987
Richard Alway	1987-1992
Dorothy Duncan	1992-1994
Joanna Bedard	1994 to present

"Culture, in fact, is an ongoing process, and reflects the values, beliefs, and life choices of individuals as they go about their daily lives. At the same time, culture must also be defined in terms of the products of our lives together. A society's culture must include its language and literature, its music, art, dances, the architecture that it has left behind, and the philosophy of living that allowed all of these things to be produced in the first place". Robert Welch, later Ontario's first Minister of Culture and Recreation, 1973.



HERITAGE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A heritage conservation easement is as a voluntary legal agreement between an owner of a heritage property and a heritage conservation body. The agreement recognizes the joint desire of the two parties to conserve the heritage character of the site. It sets up a process of consultation between the owner and the heritage body to encourage long-term sympathetic stewardship of the property. Once signed and registered on title, the conservation easement runs with the land, binding the present and all future owners. Conservation easements provide a legal framework in which private landowners (individuals, organizations or institutions) across the province join the heritage community to achieve long-range conservation goals and to receive helpful advice on appropriate conservation approaches.



VICTORIA HALL, COBOURG

Victoria Hall in Cobourg is a monumental piece of mid-nineteenth century civic architecture. Its significance was recognized by a provincial plaque erected by the Historic Sites Board in 1957. The restoration of Victoria Hall was too expensive for the Foundation to fund on its own. When the province decided to support the project, however, it provided a quarter of a million dollars of funding through the Foundation. The Foundation then took an easement to protect the heritage character of the building. The story of Victoria Hall's restoration illustrates how the Foundation's plaques, grants and easements can be combined to help preserve important heritage sites across the province.

These projects were offshoots of an unprecedented expansion of government that encompassed the introduction of health insurance, the expansion of post-secondary education and a proliferation of cultural agencies including the Ontario Arts Council (1963), the McMichael Canadian Art Collection (1965), the Ontario Science Centre (1967), TVOntario (1966) and Ontario Place (1971).

Although these trends favoured a historic trust, another factor proved critical to resolving the issue. Some Ontarians owned property which they wanted to turn over to the province, but the government lacked any mechanism to provide tax benefits in return. The prospect that many of these gifts would include historic buildings and sites connected the donations issue to the heritage movement. The resulting conjunction of political pressure and opportunity was sufficient to spur the provincial government to action.



Victoria Hall, Cobourg.

When the Historic Sites Board met on October 27, 1965, Co-Chairman William Cranston had dramatic news. The government would put forward legislation to create the Ontario Heritage Foundation at the next legislative session. In 1967 the Ontario Heritage Foundation Act was passed, creating a government agency that would function as a heritage trust. The underlying idea was simple enough: the people of Ontario would gain control over important parts of their heritage; in return, donors would receive a tax deduction. The Foundation was expected to attract sizeable donations because its status as an agency of the Crown allowed it to offer significant tax benefits.

Glassco Park, Kleinburg



From right to left, Willa Glassco with Premier John Robarts, her daughter, Gay Evans, son-in-law Dr. John Evans, and their children at home near Glassco Park, Kleinburg, January, 1969.



Left to right sitting, Willa Glassco, Frederick A. Wade, Foundation's Chair, Dr. G. Ross Lord, Chairman, Metropolitan Toronto Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) and standing F.L. Lunn, Secretary Treasurer of MTRCA, signing papers transferring Glassco Park to the Foundation, July 1969.

THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION'S FIRST PROPERTY

The first property donation to the Foundation, Glassco Park, was 200 hectares of partly forested land in the valley of the East Humber River, adjacent to the Boyd Conservation Area and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection near Kleinburg. Mr. J. Grant Glassco, former chairman of the Brazilian Light and Power Company, willed the land to the Government of Ontario shortly before his death in 1968.



Glassco Park.



Ontario Heritage Foundation Collections

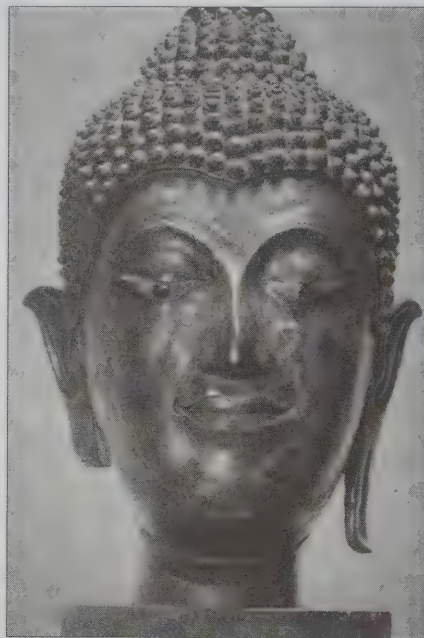


This wardrobe (c.1860), donated by Judge Robert Cudney of Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1968, was the first donation to the Foundation's collections.

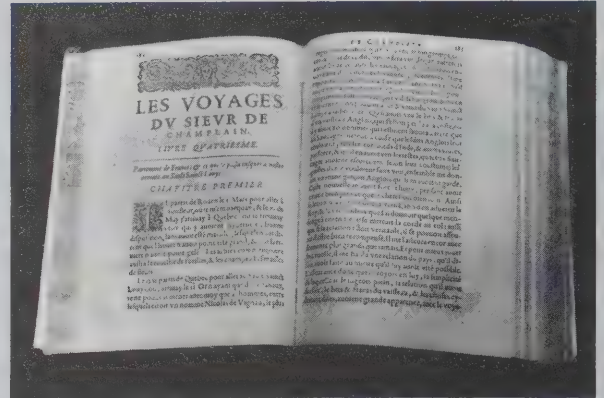


Walnut hall chair (c.1860-1880), part of the Benares collection.

From the time it began operating in 1968 the Foundation accepted donations of collections of art works and cultural artifacts. As an agency of the province, it was able to accept gifts on behalf of the Province of Ontario and issue tax receipts which allowed donors tax relief for up to 100 percent of their net income. For the first decade of the Foundation's existence, few other institutions in the province could give donors a comparable tax advantage. This tax benefit attracted the attention of donors and spurred the growth of the Foundation's cultural collection.



Buddha, cast bronze c.1560, donated by R.W. Finlayson in 1975 and transferred to the Royal Ontario Museum.



This copy of Samuel de Champlain, *Les Voyages de la Nouvelle France* (1632), was donated by Floyd S. Chalmers in 1969 and loaned to Trent University. After the Foundation reviewed its collections policy in 1986 and decided to focus on artifacts related to its historic buildings, ownership of this rare book was transferred to the university.

Between 1968 and 1974 the Foundation acquired collections worth more than \$3,000,000. The great diversity of interests among Ontario collectors was evident in the variety of cultural artifacts it received. Some notable examples were a gun and armament collection donated by Harold Crang; Sidney and Charles Fisher's donation of their collection of rare books and prints, which included a Shakespeare collection (contemporary editions of his work, his sources and illustrations of London, including a collection of etchings by Wenceslaus Hollar), a Kipling collection and a collection of the Irish author, Lord Dunsany; Leon Weinstein's donation of a 1717 Stradivarius violin; Canadian art works from the estate of Stewart and Letty Bennett (who also donated Scotsdale



This nineteenth-century tea caddy is part of a collection from the Benares estate. The estate's furnishings were donated by Geoffrey and Kathleen Sayers.

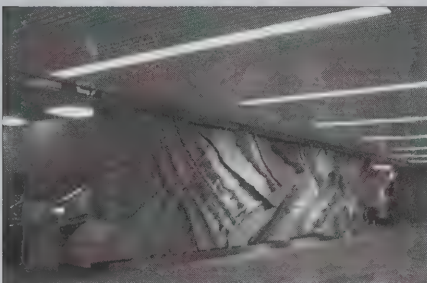
Farm to the Foundation); and the Firestone Collection of Canadian art.

The Foundation also has a special partnership with the Government of Ontario Art

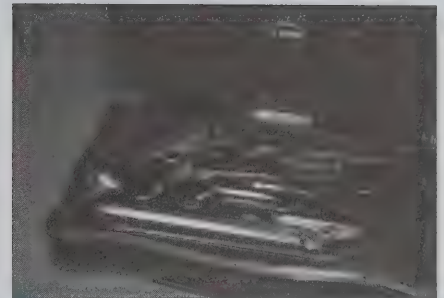
Collection. It accepts donations of works of art and furnishings and places them on loan to the art collection, which then manages the property. At times the Foundation has transferred ownership of these cultural artifacts to the collection. To promote heritage awareness and education the Foundation and the then Ministry of Government Services pub-

lished **The Ontario Collection** (1984), an illustrated history and catalogue of works collected by the province since 1855.

Today the Foundation's collections concentrate on items related to the properties it owns. They include furnishings for residences like Fulford Place in Brockville, Inge-Va in Perth, and Homewood Museum in Maitland, as well as archaeological artifacts discovered during excavations at Foundation-owned sites.



Canyons by Ted Bieler, an aluminum sculptured wall relief located in the Wilson subway station in Toronto, was loaned and later transferred to the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). Canyons was one of a number of art works acquired by the Foundation under an agreement made with the TTC in 1976. Purchased with funds from private and corporate donors, Wintario, and the TTC, these works were installed in stations on the new Spadina subway line in Toronto.



These mid-nineteenth century percussion duelling pistols were donated by J. Harold Crang in 1969. They were loaned to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM); ownership was later transferred to the ROM.



Untitled, Artist Unknown (1897). This pastel on paper scene of University Avenue in Toronto, looking north to the Ontario legislative building, was donated by D.B. Sutherland in 1982. It was loaned and later transferred to the Government of Ontario Art Collection.



Field House, Niagara-on-the-Lake



Restored Field House.

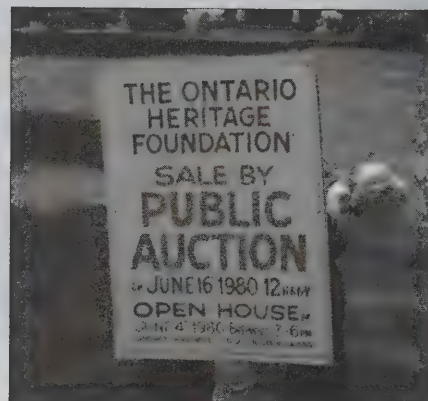


Field House prior to Restoration in 1960s.



FIELD HOUSE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

The first historic property acquired by the Foundation in 1968, the Field House was restored by the Foundation and then sold by auction to private owners in 1982.



Sale to private owners with easement.



St. Lawrence Hall, Port Hope.

The Foundation's work would be overseen by a board appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Its staff would consist of a director and secretary and like the Historic Sites Board, it would call on civil servants in its parent ministry – the Department of Tourism and Recreation – to conduct most of its work. Although it was expected to concentrate on preserving historic buildings, the Foundation's legislative mandate enabled it to hold collections of art and artifacts as well. It was also empowered to grant funds to organizations with similar purposes.

The Foundation commenced operations in February of 1968. In its first few years it received about a hundred requests annually for help in protecting or restoring historic buildings. These submissions were judged on the historical and architectural merits of the property in question. When significant properties became available, it sometimes acquired them for its portfolio. In some instances, properties were donated by owners who stayed on as life tenants.



FIRST EASEMENT

The first Foundation easement, registered on July 20, 1976, was for the St. Lawrence Hall and Hotel Block in Port Hope.



EASEMENTS

As of July 1, 1996, the Foundation held 165 properties in the Heritage Conservation Easement Program, including 3 archaeological sites, 151 built properties and 11 natural heritage sites.

This arrangement worked well for both parties. The Foundation assured the survival of an important heritage structure, while the owner retained its use and enjoyment.

The Foundation did not have the facilities to house all of the collections it received. When it made more sense for another body to act as custodian, the Foundation accepted a donation, gave the donor a tax benefit and then loaned the acquisition to an appropriate third party for permanent care. Gifts of collections were often dealt with in this manner because other cultural institutions could not match the tax advantages offered by the Foundation. Soon it had accepted millions of dollars worth of silver, furniture, paintings, drawings, rare books, manuscripts and musical instruments. Most were loaned to various galleries, libraries and museums for conservation and public exhibition.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation's ability to give grants was useful in cases in which the owner of a heritage property was interested in preservation but lacked money for restoration. It awarded funds to restore small pioneer mills and large public buildings, to stabilize ruins and to help develop heritage districts in older communities. The Foundation's budget was too small for it to contribute significantly to some of the costlier restoration projects being contemplated. On occasion the province decided to support such projects and channelled funding through Foundation grants. The government appreciated not only the heritage merits of these projects, but also their potential to help local economies. As a provincial agency with unusual powers in a specialized field, the Foundation provided a unique means of fulfilling government economic policy.

The Foundation made a substantial contribution to cultural conservation in the province, but its efforts also revealed the need for other provincial initiatives in the field. Three major issues cried out for government attention. The first was the lack of coordination among different provincial enterprises. The Historic Sites Board and the Foundation found it difficult to coordinate their efforts closely, for example, even though they reported to the same ministry.

There was also the complex problem of how to assist local efforts to preserve heritage properties. Local development issues were the responsibility of municipalities, but their role in heritage conservation was as yet undefined. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the province had passed special heritage legislation for individual cities, but most local governments did not have any legal means to save historic structures.

The third major issue concerned the regulation of archaeological excavations. The permit system for archaeologists set out in the Protection Act had been limited to designated sites and had died along with the ineffectual designa-

tion process. Twenty years later the province still had no way of protecting sites or of regulating archaeologists.

It was a reflection of the growing public concern for heritage that the province moved quickly to address these problems. In 1973 it consolidated its heritage organizations, including the Foundation, in a new Cultural Affairs Division of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Two years later this division would become a major building block for the new Ministry of Culture and Recreation. In the meantime, the province passed the Ontario Heritage Act (1974), which incorporated and superseded both the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act and the Ontario Heritage Foundation Act.

The Ontario Heritage Act further rationalized the government's heritage activities by merging the Historic Sites Board with the Ontario Heritage Foundation under the latter's name.

The result was an organization that differed radically from the original Foundation. Although it would continue as a trust, the Foundation inherited the Historic Sites Board's mandate of public education through provincial plaques and other media. The Board's archaeological activities were transferred to the Foundation in an enhanced form because the new legislation introduced a licensing system to govern archaeological field work and assigned responsibility for approving licences to the Foundation.

The new act also enabled municipal councils to designate heritage properties. It provided for the creation of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees, or LACACs, to advise councils on designations. Conservation tools now existed at the local level to assist in the protection of heritage sites across Ontario.



John White, on left, the fifth Chair of the Foundation, at the Ottawa LACAC conference.



The growth of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACACs) was demonstrated by the interest and enthusiasm displayed by their members at Foundation sponsored conferences held in Oakville in 1982 and in Ottawa in 1983.



From 1975 to 1995, the Foundation provided advice to the Minister of its parent ministry on the licensing of archaeologists in Ontario under the Ontario Heritage Act.



Architectural Tour, Ottawa LACAC Conference, 1983.

Municipalities were also empowered to enter into easement agreements with owners of heritage properties. Easements were legal covenants by which owners made a commitment to maintaining the heritage qualities of lands or buildings. Registered on property titles, they were legally binding in perpetuity.

The Heritage Act allowed the Foundation to make easement agreements as well. In its early years, it had occasionally entered into legal arrangements with owners that worked in much the same way. Now the act codified and legitimized this approach. Whereas municipalities could take easements on buildings only, the Foundation could use them without such restriction and could transfer an easement to another conservation organization.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation faced its second decade with greater powers in a field redefined by new provincial legislation. With marking and ease-



PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

During the 1980s, a number of archaeological projects allowed the public to participate in excavating a site. Participants were provided with basic instruction and then allowed to dig under the supervision of a professional archaeologist. One high-profile public archaeology program in the early 1980s was the excavation of the site of the former Parliament Building on Front Street in Toronto in August 1983. Programs such as this helped stimulate public interest in archaeology.



Archaeological Excavation, Front Street, Toronto, 1983.

ments added to trusteeship and grants, the new Foundation commanded a much more flexible and effective repertoire of techniques for dealing with different heritage projects.

The new and improved Foundation continued to preserve built heritage by adding significant properties to its portfolio and granting funds for important restoration projects. Many projects received assistance from the Foundation and from programs administered by the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. Some of these heritage programs originated within the branch and were specifically designed to achieve heritage goals. Others, such as the Wintario program that used lottery money to fund cultural enterprises, operated throughout the ministry. Still others were government-wide initiatives adapted by the branch to fulfil heritage goals. When the ministry needed an impartial body to adjudicate applications to these programs, it often turned to the Foundation's appointed Board. The Foundation's and the ministry's staffs worked closely to coordinate the different approaches to heritage conservation at their disposal.



Books supported by Foundation grants.



ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS

The Foundation launched this publication series in 1992 to make information about archaeology in Ontario more readily available. It is designed to include research reports, analyses of collections or descriptions of theoretical techniques. To date it has published Stephen G. Monckton, *Ontario Archaeological Reports 1: Huron Palaeoethnobotany* (1992) and Patrick J. Julig, *Ontario Archaeological Report 2: The Cummins Site Complex and Paleoindian Occupations in the Northwestern Lake Superior Region* (1994).



For further details on underwater archaeology, see *A Diver's Guide to Ontario's Marine Heritage* (1993), financially assisted by the Foundation.



Underwater archaeology continued to grow in importance in the 1980s.

Wolford Memorial Chapel, England

WOLFORD Chapel is a Foundation owned property in England that is associated with significant British elements of Ontario's heritage. It was built by John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806), the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, to serve as a place of worship for his family on their estate. It is the burying place of Simcoe, his wife Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim Simcoe (1766-1850), and five of their eleven children. In 1966, the John Graves Simcoe Memorial Foundation acquired the property on behalf of the people of Ontario from the owner of the estate, Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth, a British publisher. The Foundation accepted title to the chapel in 1982 from the John Graves Simcoe Foundation, which also provided funds for its long-term care.

As Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor, Simcoe was responsible for introducing the rudiments of British government to Upper Canada. Troubled relations between Britain and the United States made the defence of the infant colony one of his priorities. He founded York (Toronto) as a naval base for Lake Ontario.



John Graves Simcoe.



Wolford Memorial Chapel, Honiton, Devonshire, England, 1992.

Devonshire, England

Wolford Chapel



**Burial Place of
John Graves Simcoe
1752 - 1806**

First Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada



Elizabeth Simcoe accompanied her husband to Upper Canada and recorded many of her experiences in her diaries. A talented artist, she drew maps to assist with government business and composed drawings and watercolours of provincial scenes.

In 1963, the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario placed plaques to John Graves Simcoe in the Legislature of Ontario and at Wolford Chapel in England. Three years later a plaque was unveiled to Elizabeth Simcoe near the site of the Simcoe's former summer home, Castle Frank, on the edge of the Don Valley in Toronto.

Since the Foundation acquired the site restoration work has been carried out on the chapel. The Foundation works in partnership with the John Graves Simcoe/ Wolford Chapel Committee, a local group of British citizens who are responsible for maintaining and promoting this special site for Ontario in England.



Wolford Memorial Chapel interior, 1992.

Wolford Memorial Chapel brochure.

From 1977 on, the Foundation often awarded restoration grants on the condition that it would receive an easement in return. Frequently the ministry asked the Foundation to take an easement to protect the public investment it had made in a site of provincial interest. The combination of grants and easements provided an effective means of preserving heritage sites. It allowed owners to restore their properties, then continue to use and enjoy them. It also enabled the Foundation to preserve a property without incurring the expense of ownership. To ensure that easements were honoured, staff began monitoring easement properties regularly.

The success of the easement program highlighted the heritage movement's accomplishments since its early days. Initially the movement had been distinguished by conflict between heritage groups and property owners. Indeed, the Foundation had been created at least in part on the assumption that public ownership was the only sure way to preserve a heritage site. Now the easements program involved owners and the Foundation as partners working together towards common goals.

Public attitudes about old buildings had changed significantly since the 1960s. The Ontario Heritage Act had helped by providing local conservation efforts with a legal framework for achieving their goals. By 1985, over 150 LACACs were in operation across the province and over 1,000 heritage properties had been designated. The rise of the environmental movement, with its emphasis on the conservation of resources, made a significant contribution by increasing public interest in finding new uses for old buildings.

But heritage now encompassed more than old buildings. The Foundation was playing a prominent role in other forms of conservation as well. Archaeological activity in Ontario increased rapidly during the 1970s and 1980s. The province's Environmental Assessment Act (1975) and Planning Act (1979) included requirements for archaeological surveys which spurred the growth of an archaeological consulting industry. Universities, conservation authorities and school boards began field schools that encouraged public participation in archaeological excavations. At the same time, an increasing interest in marine sites stimulated the growth of the field of underwater archaeology.

The Foundation contributed to the growth of archaeology by providing grants to worthy projects. Yet its archaeological licensing function also made it responsible for regulating the field. Much of the archaeological activity in the province concentrated on First Nations' sites; in these cases, consultation with native groups became a prerequisite to excavation. The Foundation used its powers and influence to ensure that irreplaceable cultural resources were investigated by

qualified archaeologists in a responsible and sensitive manner. Although digs attracted the most attention, extensive post-excavation work was also necessary to record and analyze sites. Archaeologists were expected to submit reports as a condition of funding and the Foundation also directed a substantial portion of its grants towards analyses of archaeological artifacts. This emphasis on documenting and disseminating archaeological information culminated in 1990 with the Foundation's revival of the Annual Archaeological Reports of Ontario, a series originally published from 1887 to 1928 by the Minister of Education. Drawing upon its experience in preserving buildings, the Foundation also began to experiment with the use of easements to protect archaeological sites.

Although easements proved an invaluable new tool for preservation, they were limited in application to physical sites. Grants were not. They proved useful in advancing the tradition of public education that the Foundation had inherited from the Historic Sites Board. The Ontario Heritage Foundation continued to put up provincial plaques while investigating other ways to foster an appreciation of heritage. In 1977 it launched a grants program to support publications in Ontario history. When these grants proved successful, it extended funding to support research and publishing in local history as well as special heritage events such as conferences and workshops. During the 1980s, the Foundation also administered the Ontario Historical Studies Series, an important program of scholarly publishing in Ontario history.

The Foundation's public education activities embodied yet another type of



"The 'Colored Corps'", provincial plaque unveiling, 1994, Queenston Heights.

THE RECITATION OF THE GREAT LAW

The Great Law is a statement of the traditional spiritual, social, political, recreational and environmental beliefs of Iroquoian First Nations. Passed down from time immemorial by oral tradition, it laid the basis for the Five Nations Confederacy and influenced the drafting of the American constitution. The Foundation provided funds in 1992 and 1993 to support the recitation of the Great Law by condoled Chief Jacob Thomas of the Six Nations reserve near Brantford.



THE "COLORED CORPS"

The "Colored Corps", a military unit which served in the War of 1812, is commemorated by a provincial plaque erected near the Brock Monument on Queenston Heights in 1994.



THE MULTICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF ONTARIO

In the 1980s, the Foundation in cooperation with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario funded books in the Society's *Ethnocultural Voices* collection, including *The Gordon C. Eby Diaries, 1911-13: Chronicles of a Mennonite Farmer*, edited by James Nyce (1982), *Heroes of the Day: The Reminiscences of Bohdan Panchuk*, edited by Lubomyr Y. Luciuk, (1983), *The Finnish Baker's Daughters*, by Aili Grönlund Schneider (1986) and *The Memoirs of Giovanni Veltri*, edited by John Potestio (1987).

diversification in the heritage field. Although an identification with loyalism and things British persisted in many communities, it was no longer as widespread as it once had been. As the 1960s progressed, the civil rights, feminist and labour movements heightened awareness of social groups not usually included in standard accounts of Ontario's past. Concern about the place of French Canadians within Confederation made Ontarians more sensitive to the francophone presence in the province. At the same time, First Nations attracted public attention by asserting vigorous claims to lands and self-government. Their attempts to revive essential elements of their traditional cultures were less publicized, but equally determined. All these groups demanded that traditional views of the past be expanded to mirror their ancestors and to provide a context for their present-day concerns.

While the Foundation continued to receive applications for grants and plaques on traditional subjects from local heritage groups, it fostered the heritage of underrepresented groups on its own initiative. It co-sponsored significant multicultural heritage projects in cooperation with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, a provincial agency created in 1976. It also worked to preserve folk culture, which often reflected immigrants' adaptation of traditional cultures to a new land. From the late 1970s on, the Foundation initiated projects to promote the heritage of women, workers and other groups that had a low profile in its previous work.

It also began to experiment with a regional approach to promoting heritage which focused various preservation techniques on a particular area of the province. In 1981, for example, it worked with local

GREEN FOOTSTEPS

Recollections of a Grassroots Conservationist

CHARLES SAURIOL CM



Green Footsteps received Foundation funding in 1991.

groups to prepare travelling exhibits, a driving tour booklet, a lecture series and a teaching guide on the heritage of Bruce County. This approach was later applied to other regions of the province.

The Foundation's work in these areas often complemented initiatives of its ministry's Heritage Branch. The two organizations cooperated by sharing staff and delegating responsibility for different functions on the basis of each organization's particular strengths.

Partnerships were a distinctive feature of the Foundation's method of operation. As a small agency with a large mandate, it had neither the resources nor the grass-roots knowledge to administer heritage comprehensively across the province. It had, however, unique powers, heritage expertise and a willingness to assist others. As a result, it conducted most of its projects in partnership with other organizations. Often its partner was a local body such as a conservation authority, LACAC, municipal government, historical society or naturalist group. Occasionally, it was a federal organization such as Heritage Canada or Parks Canada.

A partnership with another provincial ministry brought the Foundation's first major involvement in the field of natural heritage. Until the 1980s, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) had been the main government body concerned with natural heritage. For decades it had struggled to accommodate competing interests of resource extraction companies, naturalists and tourists in provincial parks. A boom in outdoor recreation after the Second World War increased demands upon the parks system. In response, provincial parks increased in number from eight in 1945 to one hundred and eight by 1970.

The rise of the environmental movement during the 1960s brought a new pressure to bear upon the Ministry of Natural Resources. Environmentalists strengthened the naturalists' traditional opposition to economic uses of parks by stressing that environmental preservation was essential to the survival of humanity. This argument caught the public's attention and won widespread support. In response, MNR instituted a complex planning process to identify areas representative of significant ecosystems in the province. In 1978 the provincial cabinet approved a policy that planned to establish parks in each of these areas.

Five years later, the MNR announced the creation of 155 provincial parks. This was an impressive number of new parks, but it was about a hundred fewer than had first been contemplated by planners. The government decided to use other methods to preserve natural areas that would not be included in its new parks. MNR designated certain parts of the province as Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and set out to protect them and other significant



ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN IN THE 1980s

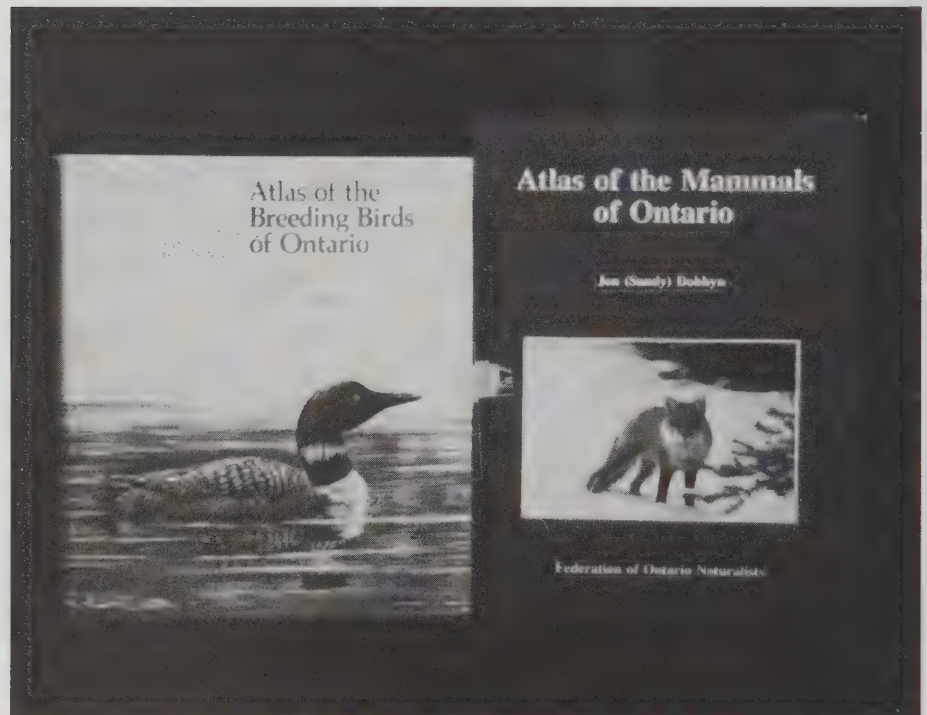
The Foundation's involvement in natural heritage reflected growing public concern for the environment in the 1980s. Issues like air and water pollution, climate change, the thinning of the ozone, destruction of wilderness and the extinction of species were often in the news. In 1989-90, polls reported that the environment was the issue uppermost in people's minds. Environmental organizations founded during the rise of the environmental movement twenty years earlier were reinvigorated by this "second wave" of environmentalism and exerted greater pressure on governments. Canada and other nations signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The Canadian government subsequently announced a "Green Plan", while Ontario adopted an "Environmental Bill of Rights". On the local level, municipalities introduced recycling programs and gave natural heritage more protection. Many of the new environmental groups that sprang up in Ontario communities found that by conserving natural areas they could address a global problem on the local level.

natural areas through other forms of public ownership and private stewardship programs. The Ministry of Natural Resources identified the Ontario Heritage Foundation as the provincial organization best equipped to assist it with its new approach to natural conservation. The Foundation's trustee role and its ability to grant significant tax benefits could attract valuable donations of natural lands for preservation. The ministry was also interested in using the Foundation's expertise in conservation easements to protect significant natural areas.

Natural heritage was not an entirely new field of activity for the Foundation. Glassco Park, the first property donated to the Foundation in 1968, was a natural property. Its donation had led to the amendment of the Ontario Heritage Foundation Act in 1969 to allow the Foundation to own "recreational, aesthetic or scenic properties." As this wording suggests, the assumption then was that natural lands were valuable for their recreational potential or their natural beauty. The environmental movement subsequently popularized a distinctly different



The *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario* and the *Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario* presented information on wildlife gathered through years of effort by hundreds of dedicated volunteers. Both projects were supervised by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The Foundation financially assisted with the publication of these volumes.



Covers of *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario*, *Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario* publications.

attitude towards nature. By emphasizing the importance of preserving pristine ecosystems, it made the Foundation's ability to hold natural properties in trust far more significant than it had originally seemed.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation's involvement in natural heritage began to

expand dramatically in the early 1980s. It participated in three major natural heritage initiatives as a trustee. In 1982, the Foundation became a founding member of the Natural Heritage League, an umbrella group dedicated to protecting significant natural heritage areas within the province. Two years later it helped launch Carolinian Canada, a project that identified prime areas of rare Carolinian forest in southwestern Ontario as targets for conservation through both private land stewardship and public acquisition. In 1985, the government asked the Foundation to play a key role in its Niagara Escarpment Plan by acquiring lands to protect ecologically sensitive areas and to consolidate a right-of-way for the Bruce Trail. By the end of the decade, the Foundation was awarding substantial grants and taking easements to help other natural heritage projects as well.

With its newly acquired role in natural heritage, the Foundation had a presence in all the major areas of conservation activity in Ontario. Although the Foundation had diversified along with the heritage movement, the Heritage Act of 1974, with its emphasis on buildings and archaeological sites, had not. After a review of the field in the late 1980s, the province issued a policy statement which defined heritage as nothing less than society's total inheritance from the past, a legacy both tangible and intangible.

For both the Foundation and the heritage movement as a whole, the potential hazard of diversification was a lack of focus. The Foundation faced the challenge of integrating its activities and developing a coherent vision for its work. The experience of conservation authorities and provincial parks suggested a way to address this problem. Although both had begun with a natural heritage focus, they had assumed responsibility for all the heritage resources on their lands, including old structures and archaeological sites. As a result, they had become accustomed to dealing with cultural and natural resources as they coexisted in the landscape. The integrated approach to heritage that they had developed from their practice of conservation in the field was fast gaining acceptance in land use planning.

Ontario's Natural Heritage League

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

OF THE

NATURAL HERITAGE LEAGUE

The Association of Conservation Authorities of Ontario
 The Bruce Trail Association
 Canadian Botanical Association
 Canadian Council on Ecological Areas
 Canadian Nature Federation
 Canadian Parks Service
 Canadian Wildlife Service
 Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment
 Conservation Council of Ontario
 Ducks Unlimited (Canada)
 Federation of Ontario Naturalists
 Field Botanists of Ontario
 The Friends of Algonquin Park
 Heritage Resources Centre (University of Waterloo)
 Hike Ontario
 Interpretation Canada
 Man and the Biosphere Programme
 Muskoka Heritage Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy of Canada
 Niagara Escarpment Commission
 The Niagara Parks Commission
 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
 Ontario Heritage Foundation
 Ontario Ministry of the Environment
 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 Ontario Parks Association
 Ontario Society for Environmental Management
 The Quetico Foundation
 Royal Botanical Gardens
 Saint Clair Parkway Commission
 The Saint Lawrence Parks Commission
 Sierra Club of Eastern Canada
 Soil and Water Conservation Society (Ontario Chapter)
 University of Guelph Arboretum
 Wildlands League
 Wildlife Habitat Canada
 World Wildlife Fund Canada
 Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

In the early 1980s, natural heritage groups in Ontario recognized that future efforts to preserve significant natural properties in the province would depend upon cooperation between private landowners, voluntary organizations and government bodies. The Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and the Nature Conservancy of Canada organized a conference, "Toward Natural Heritage Protection in Ontario" in November 1982. As a result of the conference, the Ontario Heritage Foundation invited fourteen other organizations to join with it in an umbrella group to be called the Natural Heritage League.

The League had five principal functions:

- establishing site protection priorities through an "Action List"
- developing and implementing innovative approaches to land stewardship
- promoting information exchange and public education
- coordinating funding partnerships in support of the League's objectives
- facilitating fund raising efforts on behalf of League initiatives and programs

Over the next decade the League grew to encompass a network of 38 private and public organizations linked by a mutual interest in identifying, protecting and managing properties that represented significant elements of Ontario's natural heritage. Throughout this period the Chair of the Foundation was the NHL's Chair and the Foundation provided the league's secretariat.

NHL Members 1992.



NHL Logo.



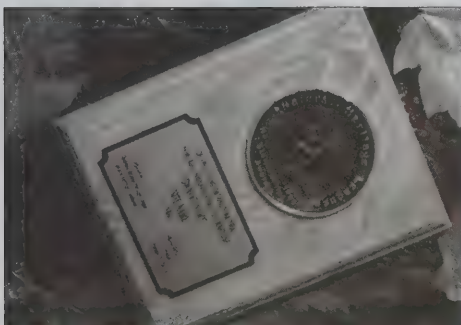
Terk Bayly, Foundation Chair, 1986-1987.



NHL Workshop.

To encourage cooperation between the private and public sectors, the NHL sponsored the Natural Heritage Stewardship Award Program. Between 1986 and 1991, the program recognized close to 900 landowners for their efforts to protect natural heritage on their properties. It also promoted the concept of "Untaxing Nature" (tax relief for owners of natural areas) embodied in the province's Conservation Land Act of 1988. Its newsletter, **Land Matters**, kept members and private landowners up to date on developments in the field.

The NHL also played a key role in launching the Carolinian Canada project to identify significant natural properties in Ontario's southernmost forest region. Through this project and other innovative private stewardship initiatives, it pioneered new natural heritage conservation practices in Ontario.



Natural Heritage Stewardship Award.



Cover of Islands of Green, an NHL publication.



Ontario Heritage Centre, Toronto



Birkbeck Building, c.1920s.

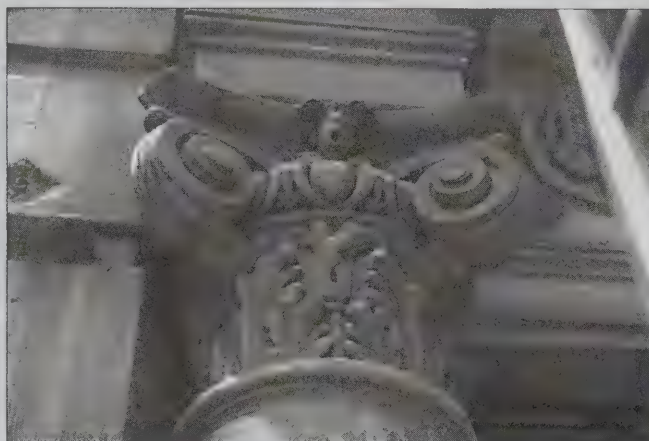
In 1985, the Foundation acquired an Edwardian office building at 10 Adelaide Street East in Toronto that was in poor condition but retained most of its original features. The Canadian Birkbeck Building is a steel frame structure in the Beaux-Art style amply embellished with architectural detail. It was designed by George Gouinlock, a well-known Toronto architect at the turn of the century. Gouinlock's other Toronto works included the north addition and library of the legislature at Queen's Park and the Music Building at the Canadian National Exhibition (now protected by an Foundation heritage conservation easement).

The Birkbeck Building was constructed between 1908 and 1909 to serve as the headquarters of the Canadian Birkbeck Investment and Savings Company. The building's second owner, the Standard Bank of Canada, was purchased in 1930 by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, which then used the building as offices for the Canadian Mortgage Building Company. From 1953 until the 1980s, the National Trust Company held the building in trust. It was designated a heritage site by the City of Toronto in 1984.

The Foundation launched a complete restoration of the Birkbeck Building in 1987. When work was complete, office space in the building, renamed the Ontario Heritage Centre, was offered at favourable rates to heritage organizations to foster



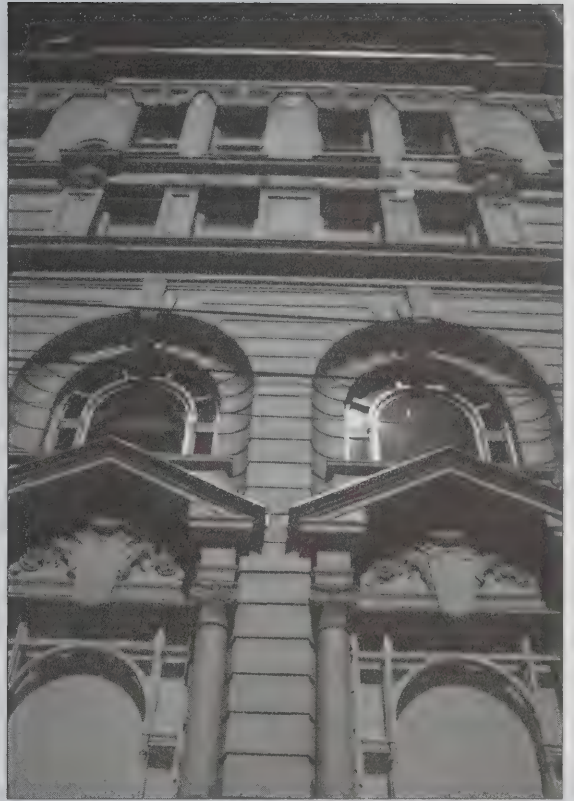
Ontario Heritage Centre, interior.



Ontario Heritage Centre, exterior.



Film Shoot at Ontario Heritage Centre in 1996.



Ontario Heritage Centre, exterior.



Restored Ontario Heritage Centre, 1989.

cooperation between various groups in the field. Today the building is the headquarters of the Foundation and holds the offices of other heritage groups and private sector organizations. The Foundation operates conference and wedding facilities in the original banking halls and meeting rooms. The Ontario Heritage Centre is also used frequently by movie and television productions for on-location filming.

The building's present-day multiple functions provide an excellent example of how a heritage property can be adapted for modern use. Located in the shadows of downtown Toronto skyscrapers, the centre also offers an interesting comparative example of changes in commercial architecture in the twentieth century. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada designated the Ontario Heritage Centre a National Historic Site in 1994.



From left to right are Maureen Forrester, Chair of the Canada Council, Scott St. John, student at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, Leo Weinstein, donor of the Windsor-Weinstein Stradivarius, and Richard Alway, seventh Chair of the Foundation.



THE WINDSOR-WEINSTEIN STRADIVARIUS AND THE FOUNDATION

One of the items deaccessioned by the Foundation was a Stradivarius violin originally donated by Leo Weinstein. Ownership of the violin was transferred in 1988 from the Foundation to the Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank, which loaned the violin to deserving students so they could experience playing this fine instrument.

The Foundation's changing role prompted it to launch a comprehensive review of its collections policy. The late seventies and early eighties had been a peak period in its acquisition of collections. But over the years many art galleries and museums had improved their facilities and the opportunities and benefits they offered donors. Since there was no longer a need for the Foundation to acquire on behalf of these institutions, it decided to concentrate on collections related to its own properties. The review process culminated in the transfer of ownership of over half of its 20,000 cultural objects to the institutions that had been acting as their custodians. Many of those retained were put on display in the Foundation's heritage properties.

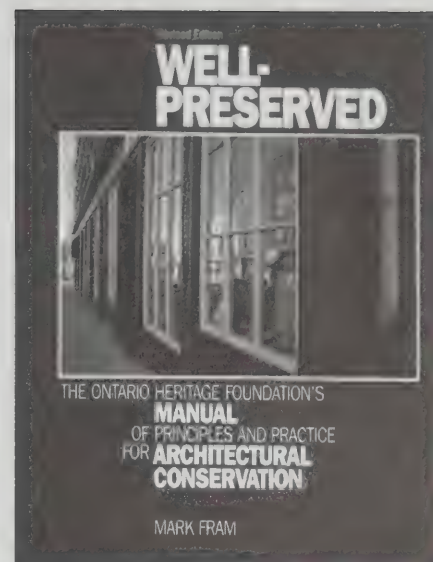
Between 1986 and 1995 the government provided \$13 million in capital grants for the Foundation to restore its historic buildings. This was the Foundation's first opportunity to renovate some of the houses it owned that had formerly been occupied by life tenants. In its early years the Foundation had contracted out work on its properties, but it decided to conduct these restorations itself. The nature and volume of the work justified this course of action. More important, the Foundation was moving into a new phase of the conservation process on its properties. In the past it had been preoccupied with identification and acquisition; now it was shifting its focus to preservation. These projects gave the Foundation the opportunity to gain practical knowledge of architectural conservation practices and to develop in-house restoration expertise. It developed an integrated approach to restoration projects that brought staff with expertise in architecture, archaeology, history and collections together to work on one

project. Technical workshops were held at properties under restoration to demonstrate conservation techniques. After their completion, the restored properties were returned to everyday use, providing ongoing examples of how heritage buildings can be adapted for new purposes.



Elgin Winter Garden Theatre Centre, Toronto, **Tommy** mural 1995.

The Foundation also undertook some larger restoration projects in the late 1980s. The first was the Birkbeck building, an Edwardian office building on Adelaide Street East in Toronto. Another was the large Second Empire residence



Well-Preserved, the Foundation's manual of principles and practice of architectural conservation, was published in 1988 and reprinted in 1992.

"Neglect of the past is one of the great dangers of our epoch. Rushing into the future, we are perpetually in danger of letting our traditions become an overgrown graveyard that no one bothers to tend or visit."

Robert Fulford, 1996

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION

- 1953 Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act.
- 1967 Ontario Heritage Foundation Act.
- 1974 Ontario Heritage Act (supercedes the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act and the Ontario Heritage Foundation Act).
- 1991 Ontario Heritage Foundation administrative separation from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation.

"Heritage helps us understand the past, gives meaning to the present and influences the future. An understanding of Ontario's heritage is essential for our survival as a society. Our heritage must be conserved for the enjoyment, benefit and well-being of present and future generations."

Ontario Heritage Foundation Vision, 1994



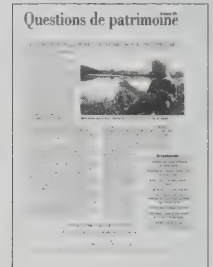
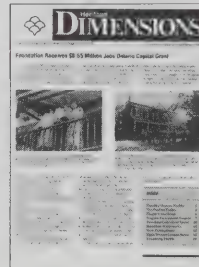
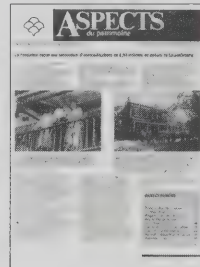
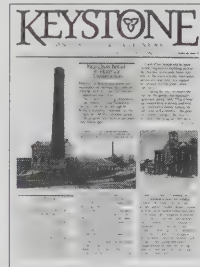
As of December 1996, the Foundation had 1104 provincial plaques, 165 easements including 11 natural heritage easements and 3 archaeological easements, 26 built properties, 37 natural heritage properties, 12,000 collections artifacts, and 450,000 archaeological artifacts.



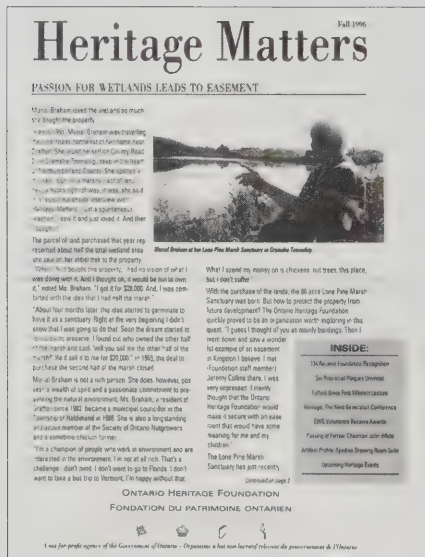
LOCAL MARKING PROGRAM

Since 1978 the provincial government has encouraged 375 community plaque projects through the Local Marking Program. In 1992, the Foundation assumed responsibility for the program. Since then it has worked in partnership with dozens of local groups to help them erect heritage markers for subjects of their choosing.

of George Brown, owner of the *Globe* newspaper, founder of the Liberal party and Father of Confederation. The third, also in downtown Toronto, was the Elgin and Winter Garden theatres, a unique complex of two turn-of-the-century vaudeville houses stacked one on top of the other. This project's \$29 million budget made it the largest renovation ever undertaken by the Foundation. The Foundation would not have been able to restore the George Brown House or the Elgin and Winter Garden theatres with its own resources. In both cases the province asked it to undertake the projects and supplied much of the funding. The Foundation also launched fundraising campaigns in conjunction with each of these projects. These appeals tapped into public interest and support for heritage, drawing generous contributions from individuals and corporations alike. Equally valuable support came from volunteers who helped in fundraising efforts and in interpreting the sites to the public after restoration.



Ontario Heritage Foundation Newsletters



1996 Heritage Matters

During this period the Foundation continued to share accommodations and staff with its parent ministry, a practice that dated back to the Historic Sites Board's administrative relationship with the Department of Travel and Publicity. This arrangement became less efficient as the years passed. Although the Foundation employed the equivalent of fifty-five full-time employees in 1990, they were spread throughout the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation. The close cooperation of the two organizations fostered a complex set of connections between their personnel. Many staff members wore two hats, working for the Foundation on some projects and the ministry on others. It was difficult for the Foundation to distinguish itself from the Heritage Branch in order to cultivate its own identity and public profile. The solution was administrative and physical separation of the Foundation



"Emily Ferguson Murphy", provincial plaque unveiling, 1993, Chatham.

from the ministry. In 1991, the Foundation moved into its newly restored Ontario Heritage Centre in the Birkbeck building at 10 Adelaide Street East in Toronto.

No sooner had this move been completed than government cutbacks began to force the Foundation to downsize its operations. Its budget and staff shrank by over one-third between 1992 and 1996. In response to a government-wide policy directive, the Foundation suspended its grants programs in December of 1995.

The Foundation responded to fiscal constraints not just by cutting its operations, but by developing new ways to generate revenue. It enhanced its rental income by upgrading space it rented for business meetings, conferences and special events in the Ontario Heritage Centre. This operation supplemented the conference facilities that the Foundation had already opened at George Brown House, the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre and Scotsdale Farm near Georgetown. The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre also generated income as a rental venue for theatrical productions and the Foundation successfully marketed this and other heritage buildings as locations for film-making. Finally, the Foundation planned new fundraising initiatives as well as partnerships with private sector sponsors.

The Foundation was not the only body in the field coping with the impact of reduced funding. Most heritage organizations had long depended on government funding for a large portion of their budgets and suddenly found themselves scrambling to survive.

One strategy was to look to the marketplace to find related activities that could generate revenue. This exercise had the indirect effect of demonstrating



"The Japanese-Canadian Road Camps", provincial plaque unveiling, 1996.



THE JAPANESE-CANADIAN ROAD CAMPS

During the Second World War, the federal government forcibly evacuated Canadians of Japanese ancestry from the coast of British Columbia. In the spring of 1942, several hundred young men were sent to Ontario to help build the Trans-Canada Highway. They were accommodated in four camps between Schreiber and Jackfish. Most soon left the road camps for work on farms or in lumber and pulp mills. Others, interned in prisoner-of-war camps for resisting separation from their families, accepted similar employment. Once established in jobs, the men encouraged relatives and friends to migrate east. Thousands settled permanently, establishing the basis of a significant Japanese-Canadian community in Ontario. [Schreiber]

how substantial the heritage movement's achievements had been over the previous three decades. It had transformed public attitudes towards old buildings so completely that in many cases preserving old buildings now made business sense. Nowhere was this more evident than in the retail sector. From the early 1980s on, Ontario towns with well-preserved century-old buildings found that their picturesque streetscapes were attracting tourists. Chambers of commerce delighted in the discovery that visitors liked to shop in old-fashioned settings. In these circumstances, architectural preservation became a means of economic development rather than an obstacle to it. By the 1990s, other economic advantages of heritage were evident. The tourism industry looked to heritage to give different communities and regions distinct identities. Publishers found that heritage themes were popular. Film-makers did as well, and often used heritage buildings and landscapes to shoot period pieces on-location.

These developments did not mean that the heritage movement could be sustained by the market alone. Nor was it likely that local initiative and voluntary effort could replace the work of provincial organizations with professional staff and assured resources. It is probable that strategic alliances between all of these sectors will be necessary to sustain heritage initiatives in the future.

These changes prompted the Foundation to reflect once again on its role in the heritage field. It developed a vision statement which crystallized themes that had been increasingly evident over the previous decade. Decisions that flowed from this exercise set clear directions for the Foundation to pursue. The vision

endorsed the Foundation's practice of working with communities and other heritage groups and recommended more partnerships of this sort. It encouraged the Foundation to integrate its various preservation tools and spheres of activity into a comprehensive approach to heritage. The vision also supported the Foundation's ongoing effort to represent a full spectrum of Ontario's heritage by seeking out underrepresented subjects and themes. Finally, it encouraged the Foundation to use the information and expertise it had accumulated over the years to increase public knowledge and appreciation of heritage.

The vision exercise also prompted the Foundation to reassess its portfolio of heritage properties. It decided that some of its properties should be returned to private ownership with an easement to ensure their conservation. It also resolved to accept new properties only if they came with an endowment sufficient to cover their maintenance costs. Greater self-sufficiency was an imperative for survival in the 1990s.

From the perspective of today's heritage movement, the early days of the Ontario Heritage Foundation were a much simpler time. The Foundation's work was concerned primarily with saving buildings and collecting artifacts or art. Since then, the heritage field has branched out to address a far broader range of preservation issues. The Foundation has been in the forefront of this evolution, extending its activities to include the preservation of other types of cultural heritage and natural heritage as well.

Along the way, the Foundation has diversified its knowledge, reaching beyond its initial grounding in architecture and collections to draw upon the fields of biology, archaeology and history. Its trustee function, originally its main instrument of preservation, has been supplemented by an array of preservation techniques that now includes markers, easements, public education and partnerships with local groups.

Diversity has come in another way as well. In its infancy, the heritage movement followed a traditional view of the province's past which focused on its British heritage and the great architecture, institutions and political events of early Ontario. Less influential groups such as women and workers, Franco-Ontarians, First Nations and other cultural minorities existed only on the fringes of the action in passive, stereotyped roles, while nature appeared primarily as something exploited by enterprise and industry. Over the past thirty years, this perspective has broadened to include a more representative cross-section of the



"The Goldie Family and the Village of Greenfield", provincial plaque unveiling, 1993, Greenfield.



BILINGUAL PROVINCIAL PLAQUES

The Foundation's provincial plaques have been produced in English and French since 1982. In previous years their texts were in English only, unless their topic was Franco-Ontarian or they were located in a Franco-Ontarian community, in which case they were produced in French as well.



The late Roy Trimble, known as a "walking encyclopedia" on the history of Belfountain, was chosen by the Town of Caledon East to be honoured under the Foundation's Heritage Community Recognition Program.

HERITAGE COMMUNITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

During Heritage Week (the third week of February) in 1996, the Foundation launched its Heritage Community Recognition Program. The program annually invites Ontario municipalities to nominate an individual in their communities who best exemplifies heritage conservation. A total of 134 people were recognized in 1996. Each was presented with a distinctive blue and gold pin in the shape of a provincial plaque and a certificate of achievement.

province's people and resources. Today the Foundation fosters a vision that is much more varied and actively strives to preserve parts of our heritage that have previously been overlooked.

At the same time the Foundation's evolution has always been affected by its status as an arm of the provincial government. It has taken on significant projects at the request of the province, expanding and contracting its programs in accord with changes in government priorities and levels of funding. As Ontario's lead heritage

agency, it has benefitted from exposure to the full range of heritage activities in the province. This experience has enabled it to integrate different practices and disciplines into a comprehensive approach to the heritage field. Change has been a constant, but the Foundation's work has always been grounded in the conviction that heritage is essential to the well-being of Ontario.



The Foundation holds protected wetlands in trust for the people of Ontario.

Chapter Two

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO



Backus Woods, near Port Rowan.

"The Carolinian Zone represents the southernmost of Ontario's seven forest regions. Although it makes up less than a quarter of one percent of Canada's Land base, the Carolinian Zone is habitat for more nationally rare species of flora and fauna than any other region in Canada. The warm climate and fertile soils make the area ideal for agriculture. Consequently, the pressures on the remaining land habitat such as woodlots and wetlands are strong and increasing."

Richard M. Alway, former Chair of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, 1992.

In its thirty-year history, the Ontario Heritage Foundation has conducted a variety of heritage conservation projects across the province. Although examples of different types can be found throughout Ontario, the emphasis of efforts has varied from one part of the province to the next in accord with each region's unique characteristics. The relatively warm climate of southwestern Ontario, for example, allowed Carolinian forest, a natural region that is unique in Canada, to grow along its southern fringe. It also supported a prosperous agricultural economy which produced a rich legacy of public buildings in the nineteenth century. The preservation of Carolinian forest and the public architecture of southwestern Ontario stand out among the Ontario Heritage Foundation's conservation efforts in the region. The text of this chapter provides a brief overview of the heritage of the southwestern Ontario as a background for understanding the Foundation's heritage conservation efforts in the region.

On a map of North America, southwestern Ontario has the appearance of a giant arrowhead thrust south and west into the flank of the American midwest. Its triangular point is defined by Lake Huron on top and Lake Erie underneath, while its blunt end roughly follows the line of the Niagara Escarpment across the middle of the Great Lakes peninsula.

WATERFALLS, WATERFALLS, WATERFALLS

Many spectacular falls can be found along the Niagara Escarpment. Scotts Falls, Hogg's Falls, Eugenia Falls, Inglis Falls and Indian Falls, are among a number located in Dufferin, Grey and Bruce Counties.

BRUCE PENINSULA

At the north end of southwestern Ontario lies the Bruce Peninsula, a 100 kilometre stretch of the Niagara Escarpment that divides Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. On its west coast are long stretches of sandy beach; on its east side, rocky cliffs of the escarpment rise over the shoreline. At the tip of the peninsula lie Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five, Canada's first National Marine Park. The latter includes Flowerpot Island, where pieces of the escarpment cliff face have been eroded into towers of stone that stand precariously along the shoreline. The numerous shipwrecks in the area have long attracted scuba divers. The park allows recreational diving but ensures the protection of these marine archaeological sites.



LAIRD PROPERTY

Located on the Bruce Peninsula near Dyers Bay, the Laird property contains over a half mile of escarpment brow. The 37 hectare (92 acres) property contains many Escarpment related features such as steep slopes, rock faces and boulders. The Bruce Trail runs through the property and provides a spectacular view of Georgian Bay. The land consists of abandoned farmland, mixed hardwood forest and coniferous forest. Joan and Doreen Laird generously donated this land in 1988 to the Foundation.



Eugenia Falls, north of Flesherton.

The escarpment is the oldest of the geographical features which define the region. It originated in the floor of a tropical sea that once covered all of what is now southern Ontario. After the sea receded, about 150 million years ago, geological forces began pushing hard sedimentary rock from the seabed towards the surface of the earth. Erosion scoured softer materials from its edge, and the Niagara Escarpment was formed.



Laird Property, Dyers Bay.

Compared with the escarpment, the Great Lakes are newcomers to the area. Global warming only began to force the glaciers of the last ice age northwards some 15,000 years ago. As land reappeared, it was surrounded at first by glaciers to the north and vast meltwaters on every other side. Some 5,000 years later, the waters around present-day Lake Erie receded to the point that land corridors opened to southern regions.

Through these corridors came small bands of hunters in pursuit of caribou, woolly mammoths, mastodons and other big game. They entered a sub-Arctic spruce parkland similar to the region just south of the Arctic tundra today. As Ontario's first immigrants came to know the land, they adopted migration patterns that followed the seasonal movements of their prey. They also found resources such as chert for their stone-tipped spears and tools. Their patterns of land use changed over the next five thousand years as the climate warmed, the land mass grew, the forest diversified and water levels fluctuated.

About 5,000 years ago the climate stabilized and the Great Lakes peninsula assumed roughly its present form. The region's inhabitants settled into permanent migration patterns based on their hunting and gathering way of life. They found themselves in a unique geographical setting: connected by land to more northerly latitudes, but occupying an area that had much in common with neighbouring regions across the lakes. The climate was warmer than in other parts of the Great Lakes peninsula – warm enough, in fact, to include the northern limits of Carolinian forest, an ecosystem centred in more temperate latitudes of eastern North America. A greater variety of plants and animals could be found in this habitat than in any other part of the peninsula.

Natives of this region absorbed new technologies from southern peoples.



Ojibway Prairie, showing butterfly weed (bottom), black-eyed susan (middle), wild bergamot (top).

OJIBWAY PRAIRIE

This 90 hectare nature reserve of prairie plants is located in Windsor. It is one of the finest remaining tracts in Canada of tall grass prairie. There are 60 plant species here, native to the plains of North America and over 215 plant species within the area. Some of the grasses found there grow to over two metres in height.

The establishment of the Ojibway Prairie Nature Reserve was the product of a partnership and donations from various levels of government and non-governmental groups, including the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the City of Windsor and the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

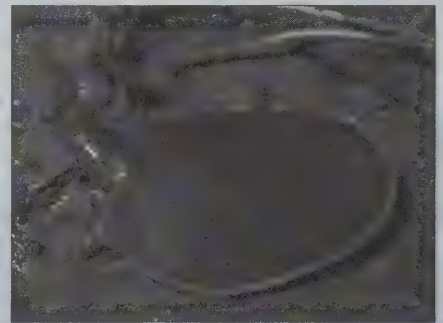
Carolinian Canada



Opossum, a marsupial mammal.

Canadians rarely consider opossums, magnolias, cacti and sassafras as native to their country, yet all of these species are found in southwestern Ontario. After all, the southernmost parts of the province are at the same latitude as northern California. Where large bodies of water moderate the climate, it is warm enough to support an ecosystem with features typical of the Carolinas. A narrow band of Carolinian forest extends along the north shores of Lake Erie and western Lake Ontario. Although this Carolinian zone comprises less than a quarter of one percent of Canada's land area, it is home to more types of flora and fauna than anywhere else in the country.

When Europeans first arrived in what is now Ontario, forest blanketed much of the southwest. Thousands of hectares of wetlands surrounded Lakes Erie and St. Clair, and prairies studded with wildflowers and marshes were found in different parts of the region. Today, some of North America's largest remaining tall grass prairies are on Walpole Island at the north end of Lake St. Clair.



Softshell turtle.

A warm climate and rich soils have made the Carolinian zone attractive both for farming and for urban expansion. As a result, only three per cent of its original forest cover now remains. Almost 90 per cent of its wetlands have been lost, and prairies are now among its most threatened ecosystems. The consequent loss of habitat has had a major impact upon flora and fauna. For example, the tiny colourful prothonotary warbler is



Small white lady's slipper.

now restricted to a small number of nesting sites. Fish and the "creepy crawlers" on river bottoms have suffered as well. Although it was originally the richest habitat in the country, the Carolinian zone now holds the dubious distinction of containing more rare, threatened and endangered species than any other part of Canada.

Carolinian Canada is a cooperative project set up in 1984 by the province of Ontario and non-profit conservation groups to preserve the ecological diversity of this zone. In 1987, \$3.6 million was pledged by the Government of Ontario, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada

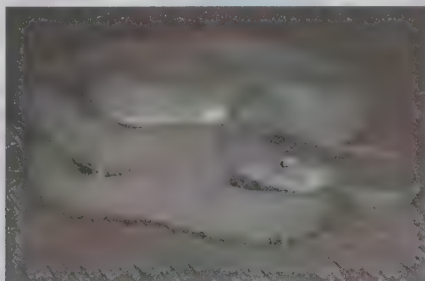
and the World Wildlife Fund of Canada to protect 38 critical natural areas totalling 16,500 hectares. Grants to local conservation organizations supported private land stewardship, land acquisition, public education programs, the protection of threatened species and the restoration of endangered ecosystems. The Ontario Heritage Foundation assumed a major role as trustee, fund and grant administrator (until 1994) and remains a member of the project's steering committee.

Carolinian Canada has enjoyed many successes. Two thirds of the 38 designated areas are now protected by conservation authorities or private landowners. The land stewardship feature of the program was particularly effective. Awards were given to private landowners who entered into verbal agreements to conserve their land and its features. Over 1,000 landowners have agreed to protect over 6,000 hectares of Carolinian habitat. Another 5,900 hectares are owned by conservation organizations. The Foundation, for example, owns the Rowanwood Sanctuary and has conservation easements on the Backus Woods, Mill Point and Hanrath properties to ensure the long-term protection of these significant Carolinian Canada sites.

The protection of the Carolinian zone continues to be a challenging conservation issue in southwestern Ontario.



Mill Point, Pelee Island.



The habitat of the Lake Erie water snake at Mill Point, Pelee Island is protected by a Foundation heritage conservation easement.



CAROLINIAN CANADA PUBLICATIONS FUNDED BY THE FOUNDATION:

- G.M. Allan, P.F.J. Eagles, S.D. Price (eds.), *Conserving Carolinian Canada* (1990).
- Federation of Ontario Naturalists, *Carolinian Canada Teacher's Guide* (1991).
- Federation of Ontario Naturalists, *Stone Road Alvar Research/Management Report* (1989).
- Grand River Conservation Authority, *Planning for the Birds: An Ecological Input into Planning and Stewardship for the Grand River Forests and Other Valley Corridors* (1991).
- Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, *A Checklist of the Vascular Plants of the Dundas Valley* (1992).



BACKUS WOODS

This 260-hectare woodlot in Haldimand-Norfolk county is a fine example of a mature Carolinian forest. It was acquired from the Backus family in 1956 by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority. In 1981 the Ministry of Natural Resources established the Backus Woods Group to develop a management plan for the area.

In 1990, the Backus Woods Trust Fund was established and the Foundation took a heritage conservation easement on the property. The easement gives legal status to the Backus Woods Management Plan to guide the conservation of Backus Woods. The trust fund, administered by the Foundation, includes donations raised by local citizens and placed in an endowment to support conservation and educational activities. A local advisory committee provides advice on protection and management and continues to raise funds for the site.



FRENCH SETTLEMENT ON THE SOUTH SHORE

Windsor is the oldest known site of continuous settlement in Ontario. The government of New France, anxious to increase its presence on the Detroit River, offered land for agricultural settlement on the south shore in 1749. That summer, families from the lower St. Lawrence River relocated to lots which began about 6.5 km downstream from here. Along with civilians and discharged soldiers from Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit), they formed the community of La Petite Cote. Additional waterfront lots, including this site, were laid out in 1751. These extended from the Huron mission, located in the vicinity of the present Ambassador Bridge, to the Ottawa village situated opposite the fort. When the French regime ended in 1760, about 300 settlers were living here. [Windsor]

These included innovations such as ceramic vessels and the bow and arrow. Since they were located near all the principal waterways into the interior of the continent – the St. Lawrence, the Hudson, and the Mississippi rivers – they were exceptionally well-positioned to acquire trade goods. After trading hands several times, marine shells came to them from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, pipestone from the Ohio valley, silver from Lake Timiskaming, copper from the western shores of Lake Superior, and quartzite from Labrador.

The most revolutionary import from the south was corn. Introduced about 1,200 years ago, it provided a more reliable source of storable food than the gourd or squash that had been grown before and made an agricultural way of life possible. Corn helped create the Iroquoian culture, distinguished by its populous villages of oblong bark lodges surrounded by fields. For eight centuries after the introduction of corn, the Iroquoian peoples thrived, building ever larger villages and increasingly stable communities.

When Europeans first came to the Great Lakes peninsula, an Iroquoian First Nation known as the Attiwandaron inhabited the Carolinian forest of the southwest. It numbered about 15,000 people who lived in forty villages at the eastern end of Lake Erie's north shore. The French called this nation the Neutrals because they did not take sides in the wars between two other Iroquoian groups: the Wendat (Huron) Iroquois of central Ontario and the Five Nations Confederacy south of Lake Ontario. This struggle was motivated in part by competition for control of the fur trade with Europeans. Since the Attiwandaron lived where two major fur trade routes converged, they were not immune to the conflict swirling around them. In the middle of the seventeenth century the Five Nations attacked and annihilated the Wendat, then proceeded to disperse the Attiwandaron as well.

Throughout the late seventeenth century the French expanded their fur trade, eventually claiming ownership of the centre of the continent from Quebec to New Orleans. By the early eighteenth century they had built strategic forts along the lower Great Lakes and south into the Ohio valley, including a major stronghold at Detroit. French-Canadians from the St. Lawrence valley settled across the river from Detroit in 1749, becoming the first permanent European settlers in what would one day be Ontario.

The late eighteenth century brought momentous changes to the region.



FATHER PIERRE POTIER, 1708-1781

The first pastor of Assumption Church, Potier was born in Blandain, in present-day Belgium. In 1721 he entered a Jesuit College and, after pronouncing his final vows in 1743, he came to Quebec. An avid scholar, Potier began an intensive study of the Huron language at Lorette. A year later, he was sent to BoisBlanc (Bob-Lo) Island to serve the Huron mission of the Assumption. In 1748 he moved with the mission to this locality and by 1761 he was ministering to the needs of both the Hurons and the French settlers in the area. While fulfilling his pastoral duties, Potier continued his linguistic studies and today his notes provide the best key to the dialect spoken in New France in the mid-18th century. [Windsor]



THE FOUNDATION HAS FUNDED THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ON FATHER POTIER:

Peter Halford, *Le français des Canadiens à la veille de la conquête: témoignage du père Pierre Philippe Potier, s.j.* (1994).
Robert Toupin, *Les écrits de Pierre Potier* (1996).



Assumption church in Windsor is the place of worship for the oldest Roman Catholic parish west of Montreal. The present building was constructed in 1845 and is protected with a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation. The easement also protects a First Nations archaeological site in adjacent Assumption Park. The provincial plaque commemorating Father Pierre Potier is located at the church.



Duff-Baby House, Windsor

Built in 1798 on the south shore of the Detroit River in Sandwich, the Duff-Baby house is named for its first two loyalist owners, Alexander Duff and James Baby. Recognized among the most significant late eighteenth-century landmarks in Upper Canada, the house retains its original orientation to the river and reflects some of the principal themes and events shaping the province's early history.

Alexander Duff (1770-

1809), one of the founders of Sandwich, built the house in 1798 and used it as a base for his fur-trading operations for nine years. James Baby, a prominent Upper Canadian politician, military officer and businessman from an old Quebec family, purchased the house from Duff in 1807. During the War of 1812, Baby is



Duff-Baby House, front elevation, 1960.



Duff-Baby House, front elevation, 1995.

reputed to have hosted a dinner attended by the great Shawnee chief Tecumseh. The house survived attack, occupation and looting by American troops. In his claim for losses, Baby stated that it had been "stript." The older Neo-Classical interior fittings appear to date from the house's postwar refitting.

The house displays several architectural influences. It has French characteristics like timber wall-framing with brick infill, a steeply-pitched roof and dormers. In its layout and dimensions it is a North

American adaptation of the Georgian style. The original one-acre complex included a store, a stable, other outbuildings, a wharf and an orchard. The Baby family lived here until 1871. Dr. William Beasley bought the property for his home and medical office in 1905. The Foundation acquired the house in 1979 from his daughter, Isobel Beasley.

At Duff-Baby House, archaeological research undertaken by the Foundation extended over several field seasons. Although much of the site's original physical context had disappeared, archaeological digs brought to light hidden details of its past. They revealed the

evolution of landscape, including the location and character of the barn and the house's cisterns, drainage and the former kitchen wing. This information subsequently guided the restoration of the site.

In 1993 a front porch erected by the Beasleys was dismantled, revealing Neo-Classical features that included the remnants of a wooden pediment and entablature with a Greek key design flanked by fluted pilasters. The way the pediment is cut into the windowsill above suggests that it was installed by Baby after the War of 1812.

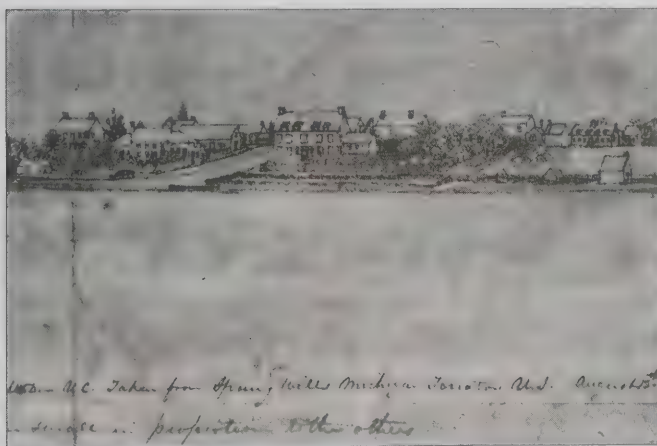
In 1986, the Ontario Heritage Foundation entered into a twenty-five year agreement with the Ministry of Government Services to provide field offices in the house for the Ministries of Culture and Citizenship. Five years later, the Foundation received a capital grant to undertake restoration work and to build a new interpretive centre on the site of the former carriage house. The Foundation entered into a partnership with the François Baby House Museum to operate the centre, which is used for educational programs and public

meetings. Les Amis Duff-Bâby, a local volunteer group, works with the Museum to provide access to the centre, the house and the site. The Duff-Baby House and Bethune-Thompson House in Williamstown are the two oldest houses owned and restored by the Foundation.

Duff-Baby House illustrates how heritage properties can be restored, adapted to new uses and integrated back into the community while retaining their heritage character.



Archaeology at Duff-Baby House, 1987.



Sketch of Sandwich waterfront, c. 1830 showing Duff-Baby House.



"The Josiah Henson House", provincial plaque unveiling, 1965, Dresden.

Josiah Henson escaped from slavery in the southern United States by following the Underground Railroad to Canada, then helped establish the community of Dawn for fellow freedom seekers. Harriet Beecher Stowe later said that she drew upon Henson's account his life in writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, her famous anti-slavery novel. Henson's house is now part of Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, a major stop on the African-Canadian Heritage Tour of historic sites in the region associated with the Underground Railroad.

Between 1760 and 1780, New France fell to Britain and Britain lost most of its North American possessions in the American Revolution. These changes reinforced the southwest region's northern ties in three significant ways. First, they made most of the region's border – Lakes Huron and Erie and their connecting waterways – an international boundary between British North America and the United States. Second, British refugees from the Thirteen Colonies, the United Empire Loyalists, began to arrive to settle British territory north of the Great Lakes. Finally, the differences between the French-Canadians in the St. Lawrence valley and these new immigrants prompted Britain to split the province of Quebec into two colonies, Upper Canada and Lower Canada, in 1791.

The loyalists were soon immersed in another wave of migration. Southwestern Upper Canada lay squarely in the path of westward American expansion. While land sold for two dollars an acre in the Ohio valley, in Upper Canada it was available for sixpence an acre plus survey costs and an oath of allegiance. Land seekers from New England, New York and Pennsylvania flowed in. By 1812 about 80% of the population of Upper Canada was of American descent, only a quarter of which consisted of loyalists or their descendants.

The bulk of American immigrants settled close to the border along waterfronts and roads into the interior that gave them access to the local village or



THE HALDIMAND GRANT, 1794

Following the American Revolution Sir Frederick Haldimand, Governor-in-Chief of Canada, granted to the Six Nations of the Iroquois a tract of land extending for six miles on both sides of the Grand River from its source to Lake Erie. This grant was made in recognition of their services as allies of the British Crown during the war, and to recompense them for the loss of their former lands in Northern New York State. In later years large areas of this tract, including portions of the present counties of Haldimand, Brant, Waterloo and Wellington, were sold to white settlers. [Cayuga]



Colonel Thomas Talbot.



COLONEL THOMAS TALBOT, 1771-1853

Founder of the 'Talbot Settlement', he was born at Castle Malahide, Ireland, a member of the Anglo-Irish nobility. In 1803, after serving in the British Army, and on Simcoe's staff, he was granted 5,000 acres in this region and settled in Dunwich Township. Through political and family influence he obtained extraordinary powers to promote colonization. Talbot built mills, supervised the construction of a 300 mile road paralleling Lake Erie, established thousands of settlers in his 'principality', and controlled the settlement of London. In 1817 St. Thomas was named for him. Eccentric and authoritarian, patrician in his manner and conservative in his views, by 1837 he had successfully organized settlement in twenty-seven townships from Long Point to the Detroit River. [St. Thomas]

gristmill. After the War of 1812, Upper Canada discouraged American settlement and it became easier for Americans to take up lands south of the border. At the same time, depression and social dislocation at home prompted a large-scale British migration to Upper Canada. Most of these immigrants were artisans, tradesmen, or small farmers and their families, people who were gambling their limited assets on emigration rather than staying to face the threat of poverty in their homelands. About sixty per cent were Irish, with the balance approximately half Scottish and half English. The majority came to southwestern Ontario via the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. Many, particularly the Irish, kept right on going to the American frontier while others, especially Scots-Irish Protestants, tended to stay in British territory.

When they had cleared their first fields these pioneers sowed them with wheat, the only crop that was both valuable enough to justify shipping costs to Britain and would not spoil en route. The climate in parts of southwestern Upper Canada was mild enough to allow the production of winter wheat, which brought higher prices. Within a few years the southwest became the centre of the province's wheat economy.

Although people of varied backgrounds were mixed together throughout the region, concentrations of particular cultural groups could be found in some areas. English immigrants tended to settle along the Thames River valley and southward to Lake Erie. Though common everywhere, settlers from Scotland were most numerous along the Lake Huron shore. Scots-Irish could be found all over in significant numbers. German-Americans who had arrived from Pennsylvania ahead of British immigration established themselves in the upper Grand River valley. Their communities attracted other Germans from



ABRAHAM ERB, 1772-1830

Like many pioneers of this district, the founder of Waterloo was a German Mennonite from Franklin County, Pennsylvania. In 1805 he purchased 900 acres of bush-land on the site of this town. He settled here in 1806 and erected the first sawmill two years later. His grist-mill built in 1816, remained in continuous operation for 111 years and formed the nucleus and social centre of a thriving municipality. [Waterloo]



"The John Backhouse Mill, c.1798", provincial plaque unveiling, 1957.

Professor Thomas McIlwraith, an original member of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board, is fifth from the left.



THE JOHN BACKHOUSE MILL, c.1798

John Backhouse emigrated from Yorkshire to the United States in 1791 but, shortly thereafter, moved to Upper Canada. He served as a Major of the 1st. Norfolk Militia in the War of 1812 and became a chairman of the Quarter Sessions, then the chief instrument of local government. He is believed to have erected this mill 1798. It remained in the possession of his descendants until its purchase 1955 by the Big Creek Region Conservation Authority, having been in continuous operation for a longer period than any mill in this province. [Port Rowan]

overseas, and eventually the German presence extended throughout the centre of the region.

Like the First Nations thousands of years before them, the new European settlers of the region imported ideas from neighbouring regions that had a similar way of life. Agricultural innovations such as stumping machines, cheese factories and quarterly fairs came into Upper Canada through its southwestern frontier. Most pioneer grist-milling technology came from the United States as well, and frequently the mill owner and his backers were American.

Aside from the essential and ubiquitous grist mill, most small centres had a blacksmith. Sawmills were also common, especially in the pioneer era when lumbering was an important source of income for farmers. At mid-century the northeastern shore of Lake Erie had the greatest concentration of sawmills in the province. Otherwise, early manufacturing establishments produced consumer goods on a small scale for a local market. They stayed small because production was dependent on skilled craftspeople and distribution was limited by poor transportation and scattered settlement.

The southern half of the region was settled by 1825, and by 1850 almost all of the land in southwestern Upper Canada was occupied. The wilderness that had enveloped the land seventy years before had been transformed into a landscape of cultivated fields and tidy woodlots within a lattice of concession roads. It was no longer a frontier society, yet it would be another thirty years before lands opened in the Canadian west. Until then, farmers' sons who wanted to start a farm of their own usually migrated to adjoining American territory. Many Upper Canadian farmers who had ancestors in New York would have descendants in Michigan.

By the 1850s, the wheat economy was being succeeded by mixed farming. Urban centres in Canada West had developed into substantial markets for farm goods, while rail transportation finally allowed farmers to send varied products to the U.S. and Britain. Improvements in refrigeration in the 1870s allowed beef to reach the British market, and Ontario cheese began to displace American



THE FOUNDING OF PETROLIA

Ontario's Oil Refining Industry – Stimulated by the discovery of significant oil deposits in Enniskillen Township, Ontario's first commercial refineries were erected in 1857-62 at Sarnia, Oil Spring, 'Petrolea' and Hamilton. The industry, developed to produce coal-oil and lubricants, was plagued by explosive fires, market fluctuations and problems of refining. In 1880, to counter growing American competition, several companies joined to form Imperial Oil. In 1898, however, seeking expansion capital, it sold a majority interest to Standard Oil, an American refining company. The following year, Imperial brought its operations here to the lakeside. Although other cities had refineries in operation by 1907, Sarnia's access to higher grade Ohio oil, the new demand for gasoline and, from 1942, the location here of major petro-chemical industries established Sarnia as Ontario's principal refining centre. [Petrolia]



Petrolia oil wells, Petrolia, c.1870.

cheese in the British market by the 1880s. Farmers produced increasing quantities of barley, peas, hogs, cattle, sheep, wool and butter, and shipped them on the new railways that criss-crossed the region. These routes hooked up with American lines at the border, reinforcing in steel the region's links with the rest of the midwest.

Ruthven Park, Cayuga

This estate of approximately 607 hectares on the lower Grand River near Cayuga encompasses many significant features of Ontario's cultural and natural heritage. It was established in the 1830s by David Thompson, a wealthy local businessman. Born in 1793 in the Niagara region, in the 1820s he was a contractor on the first Welland Canal and a business associate of William Hamilton Merritt, the canal's main promoter. Thompson and Merritt later became involved in the Grand River Navigation Company, which built canals and locks along the Grand River to make it navigable upstream to Brantford.

In 1845, five years before his death, Thompson built an elegant Classical Revival mansion on a grand scale evocative of traditional country houses on English estates. Four generations of Thompsons occupied the home until the last direct descendant died in the 1990s. It still contains most of its original furnishings as well as family papers dating back over one hundred and seventy years.

The Grand River was frequented by First Nations for thousands of years and the riverside lands of



Ruthven, interior front hall.



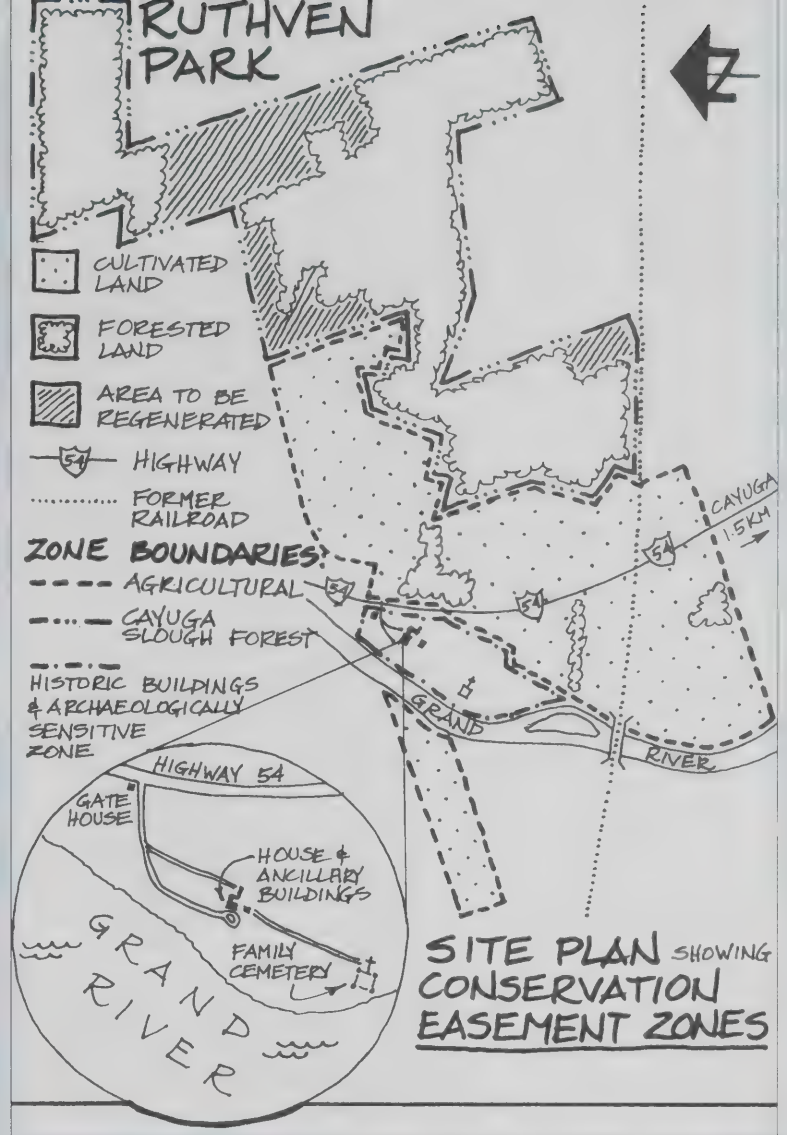
Ruthven Park, front elevation, 1993.

Ruthven Park have considerable archaeological potential. Stretching inland from the river, the estate covers cultivated fields and wild areas. Its woods and wetlands comprise a significant portion of the North Cayuga Slough Forest, a provincially significant ecosystem. Many rare and endangered features of the Carolinian forest zone can be found in Ruthven Park.

In 1994 the estate was donated by Mrs. Marion Hartney, a relative of the Thompson family, to the Lower Grand River Land Trust Foundation, Inc., a local heritage conservation organization. The donation was made

subject to the Ontario Heritage Foundation taking a heritage conservation easement on the site.

With its mix of built, archaeological and natural heritage features, Ruthven Park represented a unique opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of easements to long-term preservation of sites with multiple heritage features. Using survey plans to distinguish cultivated from non-cultivated areas, the Foundation developed and applied easement conditions appropriate to the protection of Ruthven Park's unique natural and cultural characteristics in partnership with the property owner.



Ruthven Park, Easement Map.



Grand River at Ruthven Park.



FRYFOGEL'S INN, 1844-45

Erected about 1844-5, this building was situated on the Huron Road, a pioneer highway which opened up the Canada Company's Huron Tract. Its original owner, Sebastian Fryfogel, said to be the first settler in Perth County, was operating a partially completed log inn on this property in December, 1828. The inn became a favourite stopping place for travellers and persons settling in the Huron Tract. Fryfogel held various important municipal offices, became first Warden of Perth County in 1851, and died on June 10, 1873. His inn remains one of the few examples in this area of Upper Canadian Neo-Classical architecture. [Shakespeare]

The Foundation holds a heritage conservation easement in trust on this site.

Once farmers had the flexibility to specialize in products best suited to their land, distinctive agricultural regions began to emerge. In the richest farmlands, north of Long Point and around Point Pelee on the north shore of Lake Erie, longer growing seasons and better soils supported the cultivation of orchards, vineyards, vegetables, tobacco, berries or nurseries. Just east of Lake St. Clair, conditions fostered a concentration of sugar beet farming. A higher percentage of corn and wheat were grown in the extreme southeast corner of the peninsula. In the north, where the growing season was shorter and the soils less productive, farmers specialized in livestock and dairy farming.

Although its farmlands varied in quality, on the whole southwestern Ontario was the leading agricultural region of Ontario. Nowhere else in the province was there such a large territory so completely developed for farming. Its extensive agricultural economy generated a prosperity that was reflected in the architecture of the age. During the 1850s and 1860s, many farmers built large frame or brick houses. The agricultural economy also supported the growth of market towns



Fryfogel's Inn, Shakespeare.

which competed with one another for influence. Some were selected as county seats and gained stature as centres of local government and administration. Others benefited commercially when a new railway connected them with distant centres. Leading communities erected grand public buildings which proclaimed



Paris Plains Church, Paris. Built in 1845, this rare example of cobblestone construction is marked by a provincial plaque.

their prosperity, confidence and aspirations. Many of these structures remain as community landmarks today, restored and still in use, providing local residents with a tangible connection to their past.

Another distinctive feature of southwestern Ontario architecture is the prevalence of yellow brick. The colour of this popular building material was derived from the Erie clay, the name given to clay deposits left by the glacial lake that covered much of the region as the last glaciers retreated. Part of the region's geology has been unearthed and displayed above ground in its architecture, providing a vivid reminder of the connections between natural and cultural heritage.

Improvements in transportation helped the manufacturers as well as the farmers of the southwest. Improved access to markets allowed economies of scale to come into play, which led in turn to the growth of large centralized factories. Many developed along the Grand River valley where waterpower sites existed close to the inland corridor of Dundas Street. London emerged as a leading manufacturing town in the nineteenth century. Located in the heart of the southwest, halfway between Toronto and Detroit, it also became a transportation hub and distribution centre for the region. Like London, other early manufacturing centres tended to remain industrial leaders in the twentieth century. The manufacturing belt extended from Brantford, Galt, and Waterloo along the Grand River west to London and beyond to Sarnia, Chatham, and Windsor.



MORE THAN A BIG CHEESE

The Ontario Heritage Foundation's provincial plaque to the making of a gigantic cheese in Oxford County in 1866 marks a curious novelty. The story of the "Big Cheese" reflects the importance of cheese making in Oxford County in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. For further reading on the rise and fall of the cheese industry in Ontario, see Heather Menzies, *By The Labour of Their Hands: The Story of Ontario Cheddar Cheese*, (1994), a book published with assistance from the Foundation.



Public Buildings of Southwestern Ontario



Stratford City Hall, 1899.

This building was designed by Toronto architects George King and John Siddall. Its style is neo-Jacobean and is similar to a Dutch town hall or "Raadhuis." This city hall, still in use as municipal offices, fronts on Stratford's triangular city centre. The easement agreement protects the building's major public spaces, including its auditorium.



Oxford County Jail, 1854.

Located in Woodstock, this building was designed in the Italianate style with Tuscan Gothic-style detailing. The rounded turrets in the courtyard walls were reconstructed on the west side in 1953 and on the east side in 1965.

Victorian Canadians regarded public buildings as important symbols of their communities and went to great lengths to ensure that they were elegant and impressive structures. Building committees employed a variety of architectural styles to achieve their ends. Caledonia's Town Hall, for example, drew upon Classical Revival and Italianate traditions, while the Oxford County Jail employed Tuscan, Gothic and Romanesque detail.



Caledonia Town Hall, 1858.

This town hall, designed by John Turner, reflects the use of the Classical Revival and Italianate styles popular in public buildings in the second half of the nineteenth century. Although it is a small building (15 by 9 metres), its buff brick pilasters, second storey Palladian windows, wide plain entablature and pedimented roof make it a landmark in the town. An easement agreement protects significant interior architectural detailing. This building has been converted for use as a community museum.



Middlesex County Courthouse and Jail, 1829.

This building is designed in the Gothic style and has served for over a century and a half as a focal point of London and a centre for the administration of justice in Middlesex County.

These are just two of many public buildings in southwestern Ontario that have received provincial funding for their conservation and are protected by heritage conservation easements held by the Foundation. By the 1970s and 1980s, many nineteenth-century public buildings in Ontario had deteriorated due to neglect. Some faced the immediate threat of demolition, while others were disintegrating beyond repair. Working with municipalities, the Foundation used funding and partnership agreements to save and restore many of these buildings. Today some are being used for their original purposes while others have been adapted to new uses.



Guelph City Hall, 1856.

This fine example of Classical architecture was built after the incorporation of Guelph as a town. Designed by William Thomas, it was constructed of Guelph stone and contained a market house, offices and an assembly hall. Alterations to the building were made in 1870 and a new hall was added in 1876. Except for the clock tower which was removed in 1961, the front portion of the structure retains its original appearance. The building continues to be used for municipal offices. The building is commemorated with a Foundation provincial plaque.



Aylmer Town Hall, 1874.

The town hall is situated on the town square. Like many Ontario town halls of this period it served as a council chamber, municipal office, jail, reading room, library, police and fire headquarters and on occasion, a court room. About 1895, the assembly hall in the upper storey was converted into a more formal opera hall. The main floor was converted for use as a library and local theatre groups present performances in the auditorium. The easement agreement protects the opera hall and entrances.



FEMALE REFORMERS FROM SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Progressive women of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries believed that they could cure many of society's ills if only they had the power to implement reforms. They became convinced that the right of women to higher education, entry into the professions and the vote were prerequisites for general social improvement.

The Foundation's provincial plaques mark the contributions of social reformers such as Dr. Emily Howard Jennings Stowe, the first female physician to practise medicine in Canada; her daughter, Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen, Canada's first woman graduate in medicine; Agnes Campbell MacPhail, the first woman elected to the House of Commons; Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, the organizer of the world's first Women's Institute; Nellie McClung, a champion of women's rights and social justice; and Emily Murphy, a leading feminist and social activist.



ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS, 1858-1910

Adelaide Hoodless was born and lived here until she married John Hoodless in 1881. On February 19th, 1897 she organized at Stoney Creek the world's first Women's Institute. It was her belief that in this organization rural women could discuss their problems and work together to improve their standard of homemaking and citizenship. The movement spread rapidly throughout Ontario and later to other provinces. Mrs. Hoodless, a natural leader and forceful speaker, introduced the teaching of domestic science into Ontario schools and obtained funds for the building of Macdonald Institute of Guelph. [west of St. George]



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless.

Building on the strength of its rich agricultural hinterland, southwestern Ontario became more industrialized than any part of the province outside the Golden Horseshoe. As industry became a more important part of the economy, its urban centres grew in population and prosperity. Whereas earlier immigrants had taken up land throughout the region, the Italians, Poles, Ukrainians, Czechs, and Hungarians who came in the twentieth century would take up factory jobs in urban centres. Areas in between remained agricultural and outlying regions to the north and south enjoyed less prosperity and growth. Farmers realized that their way of life was being eclipsed by the growth of the industrial city. Some hoped that the migration of people to the cities could be slowed if rural communities were provided with the same services as those available to city dwellers. Many farmers suspected that the markets in which they sold crops and bought



THE WINDSOR FORD STRIKE OF 1945

As wartime labour shortages eased in 1945, contract talks between Ford of Canada and the United Auto Workers in Windsor stalled. The 10,000 members of Local 200 went on strike on September 12 to win recognition for the union they had built during the war. When Ford had police called in to re-open its powerhouse, 8,000 workers from Local 195 walked out of other Windsor plants. For three days strikers parked cars in this area creating a 2,000-vehicle traffic jam that completely blockaded the powerhouse. The settlement, a major victory for the auto workers, included the Rand Formula, which established union security as a basic principle of postwar labour relations. [Windsor]



Southwestern Ontario has produced many artists who have made significant contributions to Canada's cultural life. The Foundation has erected provincial plaques in southwestern Ontario to poets Isabella Valancy Crawford and E. Pauline Johnson, and to painters Tom Thomson and David Milne.

goods were being manipulated by crooked city businessmen and greedy banks. Ontario farmers formed a variety of cooperatives and voluntary organizations to address these concerns. Failure to win substantial reforms led some of these organizations to take an active role in politics. Farm organizations were behind the United Farmers of Ontario movement which formed the provincial government in 1919.

Many aspects of southwestern Ontario's heritage are evident even to the casual tourist. Most of its towns and cities have preserved their fine nineteenth-century architecture. Some of its cultural attractions, like Oktoberfest in Kitchener-Waterloo or the Shakespearean festival in Stratford, draw on the heritage European immigrants brought to the region. Despite the fact that it is the only part of the province not pockmarked with lakes, recreation has grown in importance throughout the twentieth century. Cottages, resorts and provincial parks line sand beaches along the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Erie. In the northeast, hikers trek the Bruce Trail and divers explore nineteenth-century shipwrecks off Tobermory. Less productive farms in the north have been transformed into weekend retreats for city dwellers, but otherwise the northern parts of the



"Windsor Ford Strike, 1945", provincial plaque unveiling, 1995.

region retain a rural and agricultural way of life quite distinct from that of more urbanized areas to the south.



JUMBO

On September 15, 1885, one of the best known and most beloved animals met an untimely death when he was struck by a railway locomotive in St. Thomas, Ontario. Jumbo, the 13,000-pound African elephant, had been brought to North America in 1882 from the London Zoo, where for seventeen years thousands had been fascinated by the mammoth creature. His purchase for £2000 by the American P.T. Barnum raised a nation-wide outcry in Britain and daily reports of his trip across the Atlantic were carried in the British press. From 1882 to 1885 the majestic animal, reputedly born in 1861 and nearly eleven feet tall, was one of the foremost attractions of the Barnum and Bailey Circus. [St. Thomas]



In the twentieth century, southwestern Ontario continues to display the essential characteristics that have shaped its heritage for thousands of years. The relative warmth of its climate enables it to sustain a richer agriculture than other parts of Ontario, and it has strong trade and cultural links with adjacent areas in the American midwest. Nevertheless, it remains fundamentally a southern extension

of a northern territory. Southwestern Ontario shares the same land mass, a similar heritage of European immigration and two centuries of common experience with the rest of the Great Lakes peninsula. Although in geographical terms it may appear to be a piece of the United States, its heritage tells a different story. Through its southwestern peninsula, Ontario occupies part of the American midwest.



West Montrose Covered Bridge, the last remaining covered bridge in Ontario, is marked by a provincial plaque.

Chapter Three

SOUTH CENTRAL ONTARIO



Niagara Escarpment and Highway 401.

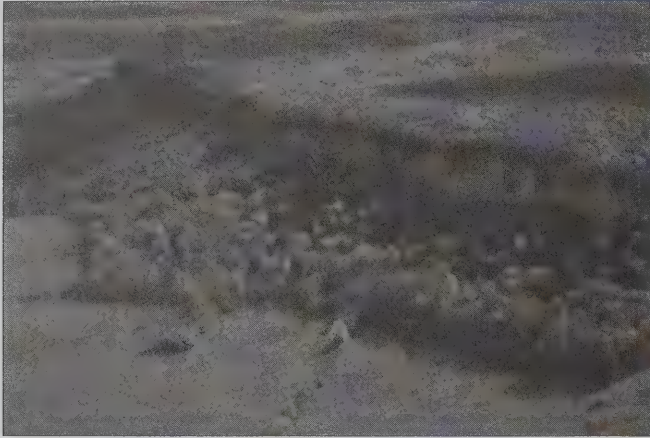
"The natural landscapes of southern Ontario have been altered and fragmented since settlement to meet the need for economic and social development of the province. In many areas, the natural features of the landscape are now reduced to – and below – the threshold levels needed to sustain themselves. The region now has a population approaching 9 million, a third of Canada's. A majority of Canada's newcomers settle here. In many areas, recent urban expansion represents a definitive and almost instantaneous break with the rural and natural landscapes developed over the past 200 years." *The Natural Heritage of Southern Ontario's Settled Landscapes* (1994).

South Central Ontario, commonly known as the Golden Horseshoe, takes its name from the night-time aerial view of the west end of Lake Ontario. From the sky, the lights of the urban areas clustered around the lakeshore form the shape of a horseshoe with the open end facing east. Its top begins roughly in the middle of the northern lakeshore and runs southwest through Toronto, Ontario's largest city, and the larger metropolitan area that sprawls around it. The horseshoe then curves around Hamilton at the head of the lake and swings southeast along the south shore of Lake Ontario to St. Catharines. The high population densities of this region have intensified development pressures, making both built and natural heritage harder to preserve here than anywhere else in the province. Consequently, the Ontario Heritage Foundation has been involved in a number of significant cultural and natural conservation projects in the region.

The Golden Horseshoe is bordered by the Lakeshore of Lake Ontario on one side and two distinctive landforms on the other. The Niagara Escarpment, one of Ontario's unique ecosystems, runs along its southern and western sides. To the north, its inland border is the Oak Ridges Moraine, a series of rolling irregular hills of gravel and sand deposited by retreating glaciers. Numerous creeks, streams, and rivers run off these two landforms towards Lake Ontario. Ravines cut by these flowing waters are a distinctive feature of both the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. The climate of south central Ontario is slightly harsher than that in the more southerly latitudes of southwestern Ontario, but moderated by Lake Ontario, it sustains a small band of Carolinian forest along the shoreline as far north as Toronto.



Ontario's Niagara Escarpment



Niagara Escarpment.

The Escarpment is one of Canada's most scenic landforms. It winds 725 kilometres from Queenston near Niagara Falls to the islands of Fathom Five National Marine Park off Tobermory. From that point it runs under water to Manitoulin Island and then into the United States, forming a horseshoe-shaped rim around the Michigan Basin.

The Escarpment originated over 450 million years ago as an immense delta from eroding ancient mountains. Later this area became the bottom of a shallow tropical sea. The skeletons of primitive sea creatures were added to layers of sediments and compressed over time into shales, sandstones, limestone and



Map of Niagara Escarpment.

dolostone, the rocks of the Niagara Escarpment. Over millions of years, the forces of water, weathering and a succession of glaciers sculpted the rock layers into the dramatic natural landscapes we see today.

The Escarpment's forested surface forms one of the largest remaining wooded areas in southern Ontario, a life-sustaining corridor for forest species.

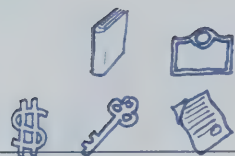
Wetlands abound. Several major rivers and numerous creeks and streams arise from headwaters located on the escarpment and tumble over its edge as spectacular waterfalls such as Ball's Falls. Unusual plant communities create rare and precious wild gardens. Dozens of species of lime-loving ferns such as the Hart's-tongue Fern thrive in shadowy nooks and crannies all along the Escarpment. It even supports an old growth forest. Tiny gnarled Eastern White Cedars clinging to the cliff edges are up to 1,000 years old, making them some of the oldest living trees in eastern North America.



Hart's-tongue Fern.

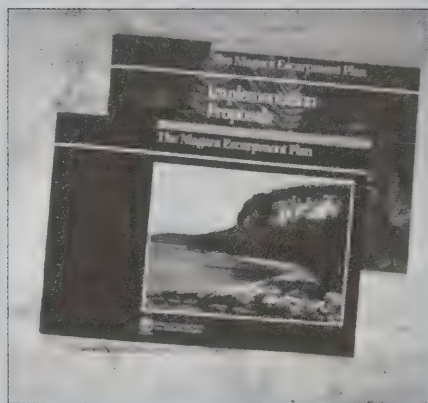


Ball's Falls, Jordan.



Conservation of the Niagara Escarpment

There are over 100 public parks and natural areas, including national and provincial parks, conservation areas, nature reserves and historic sites on the Escarpment.



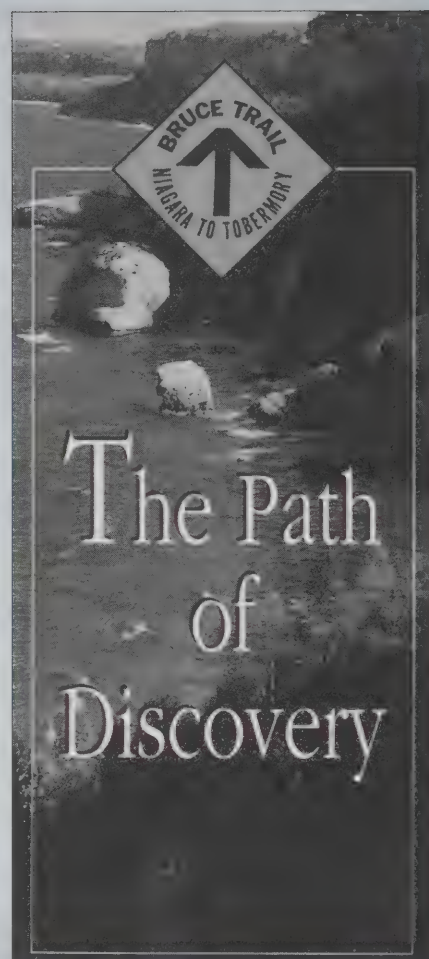
Cover of Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Ontario's Niagara Escarpment has been designated by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve. These reserves assist to protect internationally important ecosystems and foster a balance between conservation and development within their boundaries.

In the 1980s, rapid land development and the loss of natural areas in southern Ontario led to a growing concern about the future of the Niagara Escarpment. Today, over six million people live within a one-hour drive of the Escarpment. The Niagara Escarpment Plan, approved by the government in 1985 and revised in 1994, is Canada's first large-scale environmental land-use plan. The plan's three components – land-use policies, development criteria, and the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System – are designed to maintain the Escarpment and vicinity as a continuous natural environment. The Plan is implemented by an agency of the Ontario Government.

The Foundation became a partner in the Niagara Escarpment Program with the ministries of Natural Resources, Environment and Energy, Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, and Government Services; the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Bruce Trail Association, Parks Canada, seven conservation authorities and numerous local heritage organizations.

The Foundation, as the administrator of the Niagara Escarpment Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program, carries out three main responsibilities. It established and maintains the Niagara Escarpment Trust Fund by holding and investing provincial and private contributions; this provides funds for i) approved parkland, Bruce Trail acquisitions and ii) heritage protection and land stewardship activities. Secondly, it encourages and accepts donations of desirable escarpment properties and conservation easements. Thirdly, the Foundation administers a program that encourages and supports the protection of significant heritage features or properties outside of the parks and open space system, and promotes increased awareness of the important natural and cultural resources of the escarpment.



Front cover of The Path of Discovery.



Interpretive Lookout, Mount Nemo Conservation Area, Halton Region, built with funding from the Foundation.

The Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program has had a number of achievements over the last eleven years. It has provided funding for the acquisition of 148 properties in 46 parks and open space areas, and 48 properties to secure the Bruce Trail. The Foundation accepted donations of 10 properties with a value of over \$2.6 million, most of which have now been incorporated into the parks system, as well as two conservation easements. Thirty-six individuals, corporations, and non-profit organizations have been recognized for exceptional voluntary activities that promote the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Plan (including property donations, archaeological research, innovative private land stewardship initiatives and leadership in public education). One hundred and sixty-five landowners with properties totalling 1,670 hectares (4,126 acres) accepted Natural Heritage Stewardship Awards from the Foundation. More than 150 projects and activities in the areas of communications/public education, stewardship, research and fundraising have been assisted by grants and allocations totalling almost \$3 million.

BRUCE TRAIL

The oldest long-distance path in Canada, the Bruce Trail follows the escarpment, stretching 800 kilometres from Tobermory to Queenston. The Bruce Trail Association was incorporated in Ontario on March 13, 1963, and the Trail opened officially in 1967. The Association consists of over 8,000 members and 800 active volunteers in nine clubs. For further information on the Bruce Trail, see the association's *The Path of Discovery*, a publication funded by the Foundation's Niagara Escarpment Program.



Queenston Quarry, Niagara.



CRAWFORD LAKE VILLAGE SITE

Sediment collected from Crawford Lake has enabled archaeologists to make accurate datings of prehistoric sites and confirm the contributions made by the native agricultural peoples to the region's changing environment (southeast of Campbellville).

The Foundation provided funds to the Halton Region Conservation Authority for the interpretation and commemoration of the Crawford Lake Indian Village Site. There is a provincial plaque to the site.

Most of the region was unoccupied when Europeans first visited in the early seventeenth century. The Attiwandaron, dwelling on the north shore of Lake Erie, had a presence in only the southern part of the territory. But this period was simply an interlude in First Nations settlement. The region had been occupied periodically by many different peoples for thousands of years. A number of archaeological sites in the Toronto area, for example, demonstrate that Iroquoian



Crawford Lake Village Site southeast of Campbellville

peoples had once lived there. When Europeans arrived, the shores of Lake Ontario were likely a buffer zone between the Five Nations Iroquois to the south, and the Petun and Wendat to the north. After the Five Nations invaded and dispersed the northern Iroquois in the late 1640s, they established villages in the Toronto region. These settlements, however, lasted only a few decades. The Mississauga nation – an Algonkian people from the northern Shield region – subsequently settled near the mouth of the Credit River.

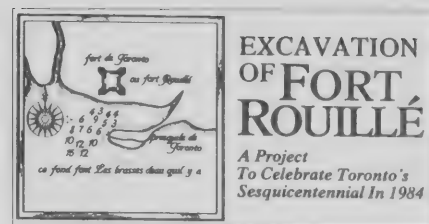
The Golden Horseshoe was a focal point of activity in the early history of the province. During the French Regime in the early 1750s, the military built Fort Rouillé in what is now Toronto. Following the American Revolutionary War, the Niagara River became a crossing point for loyalist refugees from the United States. Niagara-on-the-Lake, then called Newark, was Upper Canada's first capital. Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe believed it too exposed to American attack and shifted the capital to York (Toronto) in 1793. From its earliest days, south central Ontario enjoyed the prominence of being a centre of government and administration.

Loyalists and later American immigrants settled along the lakefront, most often near a river mouth. Every frontier farmer needed his wheat ground into flour, so grist mills were established, most often at the first waterpower site upstream from Lake Ontario. As other services located near the grist mill, small villages grew up which competed with one another by building harbour facilities and roads.

The shore of Lake Ontario saw some of the most dramatic events in the province's early history. The Niagara peninsula was invaded repeatedly by American armies during the War of 1812 and witnessed some of that conflict's bloodiest battles. Although York was never attacked by land, it was invaded twice by water in 1813. The Toronto area was also the centre of the Rebellion of 1837, the finale to one of Upper Canada's earliest constitutional struggles.



Nelles Manor, Grimsby is protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.



The excavation of Fort Rouillé was funded by the Foundation.



FORT ROUILLÉ

The last French post established in what is now southern Ontario, Fort Rouillé was built in 1750-51 to help strengthen French control of trade in the Great Lakes region. It was a palisaded fortification with four bastions and five main buildings. [Toronto]



COLONEL ROBERT NELLES, 1761-1842

A highly influential loyalist settler in the area of present-day Grimsby, Nelles came to British North America during the American Revolution. Here he became a prominent merchant, soldier, and legislator. His home, "the Manor", is one of the finest eighteenth century houses remaining in the province. [Grimsby]



Mills in south central Ontario are discussed in a number of books published with the assistance of the Foundation. See Eleanor Drake, "A Mill Should Be Build Thereon": An Early History of the Todmorden Mills (1995); Anne Guthrie, Don Valley Legacy: A Pioneer History (Ontario, 1986); Sidney Fisher, Merchant Millers of the Humber Valley: A Study of the Early Economy (1985); and Carl Benn, The King's Mill on the Humber, 1793-1805 (1979).



THE BATTLE OF STONEY CREEK, 1813

In the early hours of June 6, 1813 some 700 British regulars launched a surprise attack on a large force of American troops at Stoney Creek. The successful rout of the Americans was one of the decisive battles of the War of 1812. [Stoney Creek]

The Foundation provided funding to assist with the preservation of the site and it is protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.

The story of the region's early economic development, War of 1812 battlefields and the rebellion, as well as the people associated with these events, are celebrated by Foundation plaques.

Like the Windsor border region, the Niagara peninsula was a destination for African-Americans seeking freedom from slavery prior to Civil War in the United States. The Underground Railroad, a clandestine system of trails, guides, and safe houses that transported runaways out of the slave states, conducted them across the border in greater numbers after the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 made it impossible for former slaves to find sanctuary in the northern states.

The British authorities who oversaw the colony's early development gave the Church of England the same privileged status it enjoyed in England. To help support its development, reserves of land were set aside in each new township

surveyed. But the majority of people settling the province belonged to other Protestant denominations. From the south came Americans who were more likely to be Methodist or Baptist. Members of communal sects such as Quakers and Mennonites came north in smaller numbers but formed cohesive communities. Scotland and Ireland supplied a good number of Presbyterian immigrants to the colony. Faced with religious diversity, the government of Upper Canada slowly abandoned its hopes for the Anglican church.

Different Protestant denominations coexisted but relations between Roman

Catholics and Protestants were often tainted by cultural and racial prejudice. The potato famines of the 1840s in Ireland spurred thousands of Irish Catholics to migrate to Upper Canada. Despite deep divisions, the province was over-



Victoria College, Cobourg.

whelmingly Christian. Many First Nations peoples converted to Christianity, so that non-Christians were few and primarily Jewish. Churches were often the first public buildings erected in new communities and, over the years, they were often rebuilt on a grand scale. They were prominent features of the nineteenth-century streetscape and constitute a large part of the period's architectural legacy.

Upper Canada's first colleges were usually affiliated with one religious group



Dundurn Castle, Hamilton.

or another. As a result, religious pluralism had a major impact upon the early history of higher education. John Strachan, the Anglican bishop of Toronto, tried to establish a provincial Anglican university in Toronto but, in the end, the province set up a non-denominational institution, University of Toronto. Strachan founded Trinity College to provide an Anglican university education and other denominational colleges sprang up: Victoria College (Methodist) in Cobourg, McMaster College (Baptist) and St. Michael's College (Roman Catholic) in Toronto. The religious origins of these colleges would contrast sharply with the universities that were created by the government after the Second World War to provide post-secondary education on a mass scale.



DUNDURN CASTLE, 1832-1835

Built by Allan Napier MacNab, a prominent military and political figure in Upper Canada, Dundurn Castle was named after the MacNab family's ancestral seat in Scotland. Restored and furnished to depict the lifestyle of its original inhabitants, Dundurn is now a public museum operated by the City of Hamilton. The word "dundurn" in gaelic means "fort on the water".

The Foundation holds a heritage conservation easement on the property, has erected a provincial plaque to Dundurn Castle, and funded the publication by Donald R. Beer of *Sir Allan Napier MacNab* (1984).



VICTORIA COLLEGE, COBOURG

Opened by the Wesleyan Methodists as the Upper Canada Academy in 1836, Victoria College obtained a provincial charter and became a degree-granting institution five years later. In 1890 the college federated with the University of Toronto.

The property is protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation. The easement was registered at the time of the sale by the Province to private interests.

The Foundation has erected a series of plaques to post-secondary institutions. These include McMaster University, Hamilton; St. Michael's College, Wycliffe College, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto; York University, North York; and Brock University, St. Catharines.

Niagara's Freedom Trail

The Underground Railroad was a fascinating chapter in black history in the Niagara region. The development of the Niagara Freedom Trail in 1994 recognized African-Canadian history dating back over two hundred years in the Peninsula in such communities as Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and St. Catharines. In fact, St. Catharines was one of the last stops of the railroad's most famous conductor, Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) who epitomized the courage that brought over 40,000 American freedom-seekers to Canada.



HARRIET TUBMAN, c.1820-1913

A legendary conductor on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman became known as the "Moses" of her people. Tubman was born into slavery on a Maryland plantation and suffered brutal treatment from numerous owners before escaping in 1849. Over the next decade she returned to the American South many times and led hundreds of freedom seekers north. When the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 allowed slave owners to recapture run-aways in the northern free states, Tubman extended her operations across the Canadian border. For eight years she lived in St Catharines, and with the outbreak of the Civil War, she returned to the U.S. to serve the Union Army. [St. Catharines]

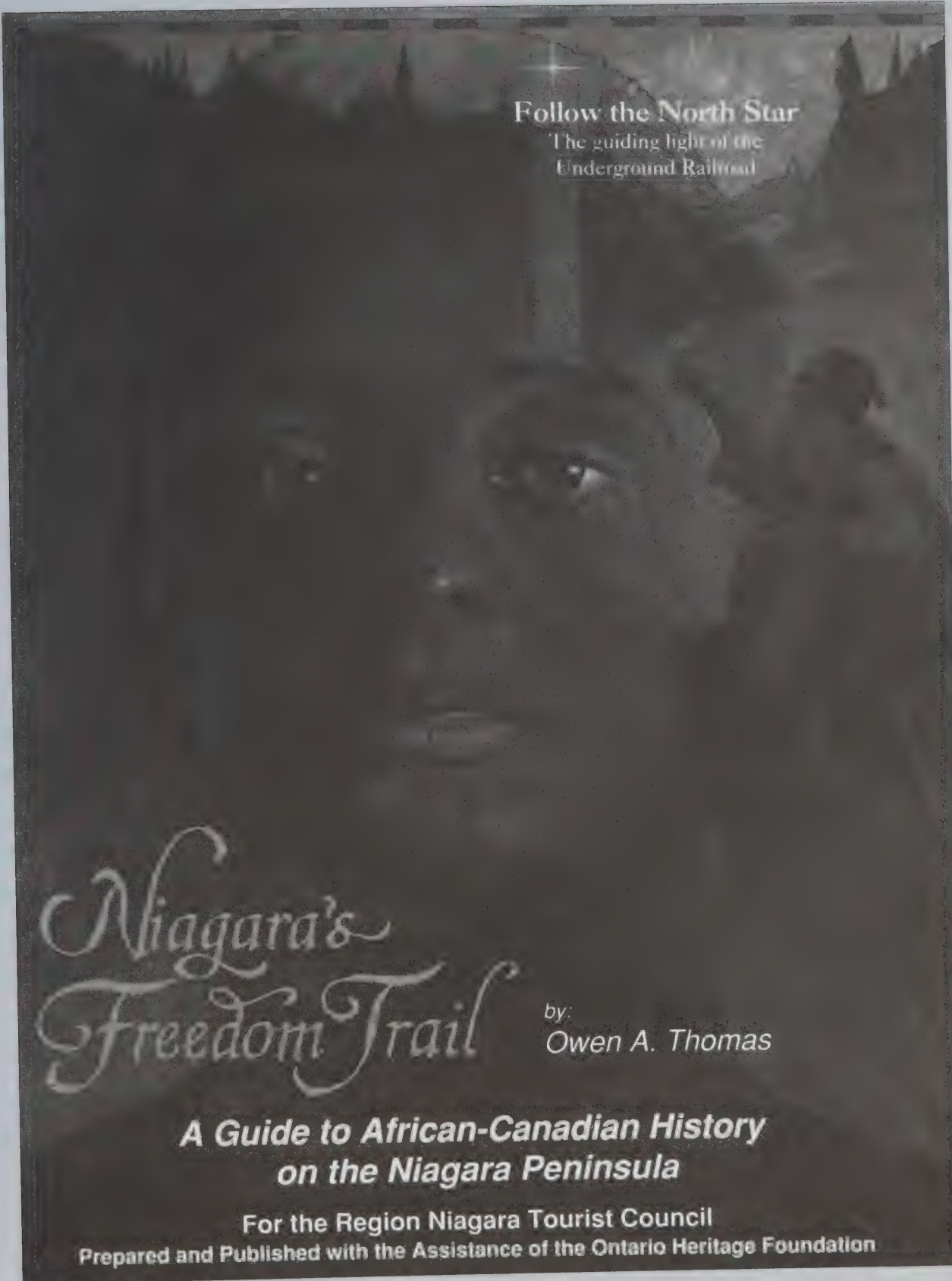
The Foundation and the former Historic Sites Board have erected five plaques recognizing black history in the Niagara Region since the 1950s.



Harriet Tubman.



In 1993, the Foundation provided a grant to assist with the publication of *Slavery and Freedom in Niagara* by Michael Power and Nancy Butler. In 1995 the Foundation, working in partnership with the Region of Niagara Tourist Council, financially assisted with the research, writing and publication of *Niagara's Freedom Trail: a guide to African-Canadian History on the Niagara Peninsula* by Owen Thomas.



Follow the North Star
The guiding light of the
Underground Railroad

Niagara's Freedom Trail

by
Owen A. Thomas

**A Guide to African-Canadian History
on the Niagara Peninsula**

For the Region Niagara Tourist Council

Prepared and Published with the Assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation

Cover, Niagara's Freedom Trail.



Niagara Apothecary, early twentieth century, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the lands along the western shores of Lake Ontario had been developed into prosperous farms. Toronto and Hamilton became the largest centres competing for control of trade within the region. Both had fine harbours and were surrounded by rich farmlands. Hamilton, at the head of the lake, had all of southwestern Ontario as its hinterland. But Toronto had advantages of its own. It was a political capital, first for Upper Canada, then off and on for the Canadas during the Union period and, finally, for the province of Ontario. It also had access to the Upper Great Lakes, first by way of Yonge Street and later by rail connections that allowed it to tap into the wealth of the northern Shield and the western prairies.

Like the Attiwandaron before them, residents of the region were at the junction of two major water routes into the interior. Initially, most merchants used the St. Lawrence River route to import and to export goods. When the Erie Canal opened in 1825, it became cheaper to ship goods along the Hudson River route to and from New York. Whichever route was chosen, businessmen were not hostage to any one commercial system.



NIAGARA APOTHECARY, NIAGARA-ON-THE LAKE

Built in 1853, the Apothecary was donated to the Foundation in 1969. This National Historic Site has been restored and is operated as a museum under an agreement between the Foundation and the Ontario College of Pharmacists.



THE FIRST WELLAND CANAL, 1824-1833

Constructed under the charge of William Hamilton Merritt, the first Welland Canal – a narrow channel with forty small, wooden locks – ran from Port Dalhousie to Port Colborne. When completed, it enabled vessels to pass directly around Niagara Falls between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. [St. Catharines]

It was the colony's internal transportation that presented the greatest impediment to trade. The early politics of the region were often preoccupied with financing public works to improve water transportation. The most notorious example was the Welland Canal, an ambitious project that strained the public purse and aggravated relations between political factions in the 1820s and 1830s. Nevertheless, its completion made St. Catharines an important port and stimulated industrial development in the Niagara region.



Locks on Third Welland Canal.

Benares, Mississauga



From left to right, Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Barbara Sayers Larson, and Dora Sayers Caro, donors of Benares.

In 1969, the Benares estate, located in Clarkson, now the City of Mississauga, was generously donated to the Foundation by three great-grandchildren of the original owner, Captain James Harris: Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Barbara Sayers Larson, and Dora Sayers Caro. In 1974, the extensive collection of family furnishings and household artifacts was also donated.

In 1995, with provincial capital funding, the Foundation completed an



Benares, after restoration, 1995.



MAZO DE LA ROCHE

Benares has a literary connection with one of the best selling Canadian novels of all time. When *Jalna* was published in 1927, it was immediately assumed that Benares was the model for the book. De la Roche wrote *Jalna* between 1924 and 1927 at Trail Cottage, then a part of the Benares estate, and was well-acquainted with the Sayers and Harris families while writing. Certain passages were highly reminiscent of the Clarkson and Erindale area.

The Foundation has a provincial plaque to de la Roche in her hometown of Newmarket.

extensive restoration of Benares, in partnership with the City of Mississauga. The work included museum planning, collection registration and conservation, archaeological, historical and architectural research, complete restoration and retrofitting of the main house, stabilization and restoration of the outbuildings, and the construction of a 2,500 square foot visitor interpretation centre.

Benares is operated by the City of Mississauga as a historic house museum. It exhibits the lifestyle of an established family with rural roots extending back to the early nineteenth century. The interior is restored to reflect the way in which the Harris family lived around 1918, making Benares one of the first historic house museums in Ontario to represent this period.



Opening of Benares, June 1995.

On the left is Joanna Bedard, Chair of the Foundation, and on the right is Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Mississauga.

Benares was one of the first historic properties acquired by the Foundation. This property illustrates the phases of the heritage conservation cycle from identification, to protection and preservation and interpretation.



EGYPT TO MISSISSAUGA!

During six months of archaeological work at Benares in 1991, over 94,000 artifacts were recovered from a variety of areas on the property. One fascinating find was a figurine in the shape of a Egyptian mummy, called a "shawabtis." It is believed to have been a travel memento that was acquired by Captain Harris during his military career. The analysis of the archaeological work guided the development and implementation of the restoration plan for Benares.



Shawabtis found at Benares.



Benares, interior showing collection of family furnishings and artifacts.

Captain James Harris (1797-1884) purchased Benares around 1837. The first Benares burned in 1855. A second house was destroyed by fire in 1856. The current house was built in 1857-59.



The Port Hope railway station was built in the 1850s by the Grand Trunk Railway. It was threatened with demolition by the Canadian National Railway (CNR) in 1978. Through an innovative partnership between the CNR, Port Hope LACAC, Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the station was restored. It continues to operate as a railway station. A heritage conservation easement, the first of its type on an operating railway station in Ontario, is held on the property by the Foundation.



Port Hope (CNR) Station.

Until the middle of the century, waterways were the focus of most transportation improvements. They provided faster and more efficient means of shipping goods than the province's poor roads. Towns that were not connected by water were isolated from one another by days of slow, uncomfortable travel. With the



McKinlay-McGinty House, West Flamborough.

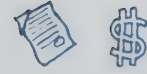


The McKinlay-McGinty House was constructed around 1848 by William McKinlay who came to West Flamborough in the 1830s to establish an iron and brass foundry. In the early 1900s, the McGinty family acquired the house. Hugh McGinty bequeathed the property to the Foundation in 1982 with the understanding that the residence was to be restored and then returned to private use through sale. It was sold in 1985 with a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation. The easement agreement protects the exterior, significant interior spaces and architectural detailing.

advent of the railway, it was possible not only to travel from one end of the province to another in a day, but also to ship goods in bulk quickly. Leading centres such as Toronto and Hamilton quickly built railways that would direct trade to them. Even smaller centres such as Port Hope and Cobourg constructed their own lines in the hope of increasing their commercial influence. Their hopes were misplaced, however. By facilitating faster

transportation, railways effectively reconstituted the colony's transportation on a larger scale, making the bigger centres even more important.

Before mid-century, the strongest industries were those related to the export trade – flour mills, breweries, sawmills, tanneries, and shipyards. Most manufacturing was done on a small scale in shops run by craftsmen and a handful of apprentices. As Upper Canada's population grew and internal transportation improved, smaller manufacturing operations were gradually replaced by factories located in cities. Steampower was adapted for use in factories, enabling mechanization on a much larger scale than had previously been possible. Local manu-



HAMILTON WATERWORKS, HAMILTON

The Hamilton Waterworks was built in 1857-59. Thomas Keefer, one of Canada's most important civil engineers, had a role in its construction. It contains the only surviving rotative Woolf compound beam steam engines in North America. This was Hamilton's first pumping station and one of the first in the country. It played an important role in the development of Hamilton as a major manufacturing centre and set a standard for waterworks design across Canada. The building is now the Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology and is protected with a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.

facturing also diversified. Textile factories were built to make cloth and clothing out of local materials. In Hamilton, early ironworks provided the basis for a steel industry. In Oshawa, the 1840s and 1850s saw the establishment of woollen mills, foundries, furniture factories, barrel and farm implement manufacturers, and an ironworks. The colony did not become self-sufficient overnight, but it was producing far more goods on its own than ever before. Most of that development was concentrated in the Golden Horseshoe.

Mechanization also eased the burden of farm work, freeing labourers to migrate to the city for work. Factory workers often had to tolerate dangerous working conditions, long hours and monotonous jobs. These workers had varying degrees of control and influence over their workplaces depending on the level and rarity of their skills. The personal contact and mutual responsibilities of master and apprentice were now being replaced by an impersonal relationship between the owner and his employees. But the concentration of work in factories also entailed a concentration of workers. The first unions were organizations of skilled workers whose bargaining power depended on skills that were in limited supply. Masons, tailors, shoemakers, and typographers had formed unions by the 1850s.

Unskilled workers, by contrast, remained unorganized until the 1880s, when the Knights of Labor, a semi-secret group originating in the United States, spread to industrial cities in Ontario. The Knights, unlike their predecessors, organized both female and male workers but had only limited success before fading from the scene. It would be another fifty years before workers were successfully organized across entire industries.



Former Hamilton Pump House, Hamilton.



Architecture in South Central Ontario



Church Street School, Aurora.

Constructed in 1886, this school is one of the finest remaining examples of a public school designed in the High Victorian style. This former school is now a museum as well as a centre for community groups.



Sharon Temple, Sharon.

This unique structure was built by the Children of Peace between 1825 and 1831 for the celebration of special festivals. The easement agreement covers the interior. The Temple is currently a museum.



Niagara Court House, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Designed in 1846 by William Thomas, this outstanding example of a mid-nineteenth century Upper Canadian public building is a National Historic Site. The easement covers significant interior rooms. The former court house is presently a multi-use facility including a library, municipal and federal offices, a theatre for the Shaw Festival, a banquet hall and rental space for commercial purposes.

During the 1970s and 1980s the Foundation, working with municipalities, local heritage groups, churches and private owners, employed funding and partnership agreements to restore these heritage sites. The buildings are protected by heritage conservation easements held in trust by the Foundation. Easement agreements protect the exteriors and in some cases the interiors. Some of these buildings are in original use while others have been converted to new uses. They represent the diverse architectural traditions of south central Ontario.



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls.
Built in 1825, this church is one of the earliest examples of Gothic Revival in Canada and is one of the province's oldest remaining Anglican churches. The easement agreement protects the interior.



Bank of Upper Canada, Toronto.

This Georgian-style building, opened in 1827, was the home of the first major bank associated with the development of the province of Ontario. It is probably the oldest surviving building built as a bank in Canada. Later, it became the home of De La Salle College, a Roman Catholic school. At present, the building contains offices, a postal museum and operating postal outlet. The former banking hall is covered by the easement agreement.



Bluestone House, Port Hope.

This Greek Revival limestone residence was built in 1834 by John David Smith, a prosperous merchant and local Justice of the Peace. Several interior rooms are covered by the easement.



Interior of St. Anne's Anglican Church, Toronto.

Built in 1907, this church was designed by Toronto architect Ford Howland in the Byzantine style, rarely used in Ontario church architecture. Its interior decoration, protected by an easement, was executed by members of the Group of Seven in 1923.



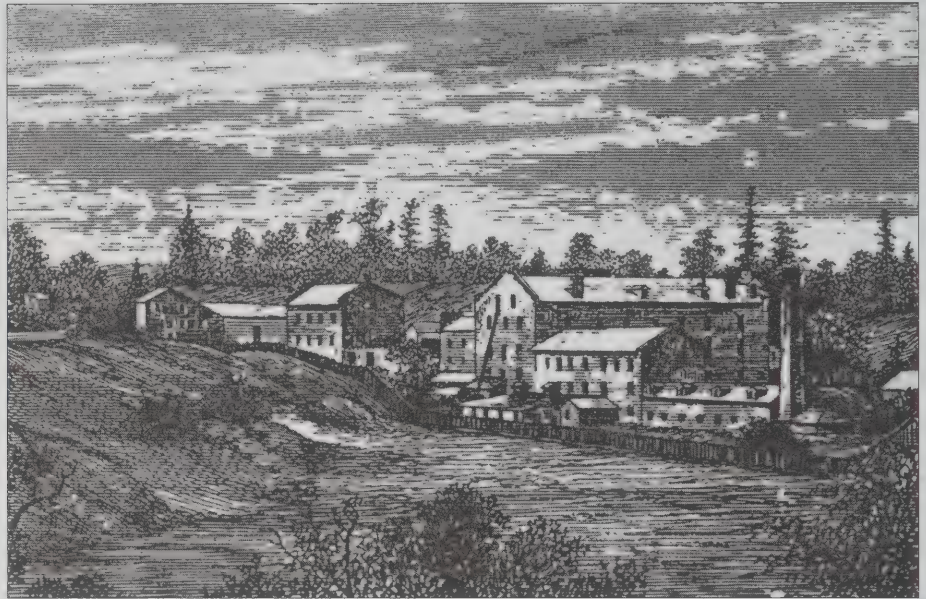
BARBERTON

At a bend in the Credit River south of Streetsville, a mill site was developed in 1826. William and Robert Barber purchased the property in 1844 and constructed the Toronto Woollen Mills, one of the largest textile mills in Canada West (Ontario). Known as Barberton, the complex grew to some forty buildings, including a dye house, a general store, sawmill, and smithy. Ownership passed from the Barber family in 1882. Early in the First World War, the four-storey stone mill was converted to flour production. Other remnants of Barberton are William Barber's home across the street and workers' cottages on the other side of the river. [Streetsville]



THE NINE HOUR MOVEMENT

In the mid-nineteenth century, industrial workers laboured ten to twelve hours a day, six days a week. Inspired by British and American examples, Hamilton unionists launched a crusade for a shorter workday in January of 1872. The workingman, they argued, needed more time for family, leisure, education and civic life. Soon the Nine-Hour Movement had branches across central Canada. In Hamilton on May 15, thousands of union and non-union workers walked off the job. Cheered on by large crowds, they paraded through the city and staged a demonstration at the Crystal Palace grounds. Resistance by employers ultimately defeated the movement, but workers learned the potential of large-scale mobilization and would eventually win a shorter workday. [Hamilton]



Barber Brothers woollen mill, 1873, Streetsville.

As cities expanded to accommodate the growing industrial labour force, it was difficult to regulate their growth. The middle classes tended to migrate from the urban core to new residential areas on its fringe, far from the sights and smells of slums and factories. Houses in old neighbourhoods were subdivided into rooming-houses, or were razed and replaced by cheap apartment buildings. Meanwhile, suburban developers bought outlying estates and farms, levelled irregular natural features like creeks and small ravines, and developed new neighbourhoods. Suburban residents travelled to work on street railways developed to provide cross-city travel. It was even possible to live in a town miles away and commute to work on one of the local railway lines that radiated out of Toronto or Hamilton.

The growth of cities and the development of industry created new social conditions in which the interdependencies fostered within smaller communities were lost. Wage earners who worked in factories tended to live together in the same neighbourhoods. For many, a regular pay cheque was their only protection from poverty, and it could be terminated by accident, illness, or the employer's whim. Urban poverty became an increasingly visible feature of the industrial city.



Pressed Metal Building, Toronto, 1902

More fortunate members of society tried a number of ways to ease poverty. Some charitable organizations established homes for the care and education of the deaf, the blind, orphans, the elderly, and the sick. The provincial government accepted responsibility only for those perceived as threats to society – criminals and the mentally ill. Institutions were built at public expense to isolate them, to protect society from them, and, if possible, to help them. Some local governments dealt with the poor by establishing Houses of Industry where they were taught “middle-class virtues” by labouring for their room and board.

The social changes that accompanied urbanization and industrialization called many social conventions into question. The place of women in society became a hotly-debated topic. Accepted middle-class wisdom had it that a woman’s place was in the home, where she could fulfil her responsibility for ensuring the morality and health of her family. The exception was among the urban poor, where the wife, and sometimes children as well, had to work to supplement the man’s income. But even among the middle-classes it was obvious that women were no longer confining themselves to their assigned sphere. More and more, women decided that the well-being of the family depended upon the well-being of society and actively addressed social ills. They assumed roles in charities and championed reform causes such as temperance and public health. It was a small step from such social activism to demands for privileges commensurate with their responsibilities in society such as the right to vote and the right to a career. Slowly social attitudes began to change.



PRESSED METAL BUILDING, TORONTO

The Metallic Roofing Company of Toronto was founded in the 1880s to manufacture patent shingles and built the Pressed Metal Showroom Building in 1902 as a showroom for the range of pressed metal architectural applications. The company supplied pre-fabricated products to architects and builders. The building was moved by the Foundation to a nearby site owned by the City of Toronto to avoid demolition and it was fully documented and recorded. Ongoing deterioration forced the dismantling and storage of the structure in 1990.

Although the building had to be moved from its original site, the documentation of the building and the company has preserved an important record of a part of the industrial heritage of Ontario.



“Discovery of Insulin”, provincial plaque unveiling, 1971, Toronto.

Featured in this photograph are Dr. Charles Best (first on the right), a member of the team that discovered insulin in 1921 and Lady Banting (second from the right), widow of Dr. Frederick Banting. Dr. Banting and Dr. J.J. R. MacLeod were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1923 for their work on insulin.



George Brown House, Toronto

George Brown built his home, known as Lambton Lodge, between 1874 and 1876. Brown supervised the work closely and in consultation with his wife Anne, selected everything from fireplaces to paint finishes. The design was influenced both by the former Government House in Toronto and by the travels of George and Anne throughout Canada and Europe. The reception rooms are the focus for the house and are fitted with carved walnut door frames, Italian marble mantels and fine plasterwork. Following Brown's death in 1880, parts of the house were redecorated c. 1889-1900 for Duncan Coulson, president of the Bank of Toronto and his family. This former residence is a good example of the Second Empire style as it was practiced in Canada.

George Brown House was restored by the Foundation in partnership with the Canadian Parks Service. The Parks Service continues to provide and maintain a collection of artifacts and furnishings depicting George Brown's period library. The house opened in 1989 as a multi-use facility including conference facilities, offices for non-profit organizations as well as interpreted historic



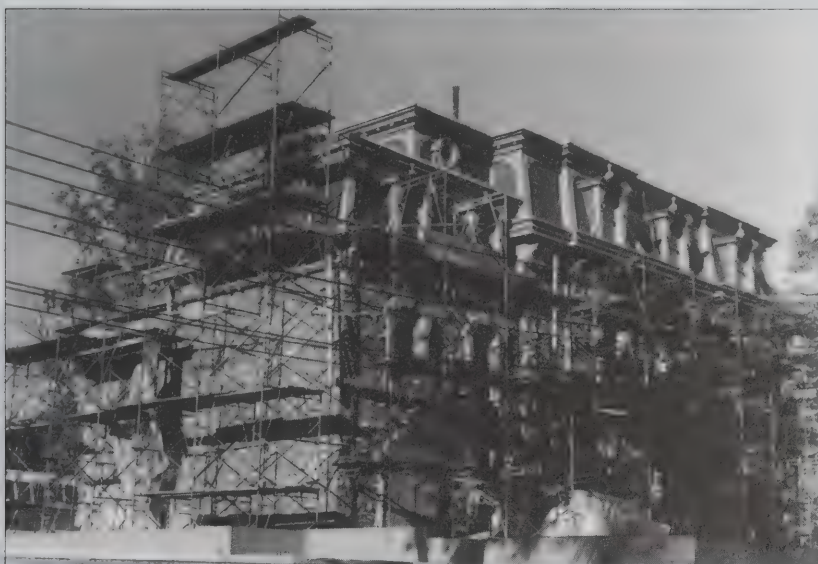
George Brown, c. 1867.

rooms. It is managed by the Foundation and the revenue generated covers the operating costs of this National Historic site.



*Technical Case Study, Cast Iron, George Brown House.
September 1991.*

During the restoration of George Brown House, the Foundation used the work site to conduct a series of technical case studies for professionals working in conservation.



Under restoration, George Brown House, 1988.



GEORGE BROWN, 1818-80

A Scottish immigrant, Brown founded the *Toronto Globe* in 1844, the influential Reform journal which helped him become a powerful political figure. As leader of the Clear Grit liberals and champion of Canada West, Brown entered the Great Coalition government of 1864 with his arch-adversary, John A. Macdonald, to make Confederation possible. In addition to his house in Toronto, he owned Bow Park, a 800-acre farm near Brantford, developing it as a major enterprise for raising pure-bred cattle. In 1880, the controversial Brown was fatally shot by a former employee of the *Globe*. [Toronto]



Restored, George Brown House, 1989.



TORONTO'S RADIAL RAILWAYS

Electric railway service on routes radiating from Toronto began in 1889. Within 20 years, the Toronto and York Radial Railway Company operated lines north on Yonge Street to Sutton, with a branch to Schomberg, from the east end of Toronto to West Hill, and from Sunnyside to Port Credit. In 1917, the Toronto Suburban Railway Company completed its line from west Toronto to Guelph, it also had a route to Woodbridge. These companies operated about 115 miles of trackage. Because they failed to reach downtown Toronto, the radials fell easy prey to inter-urban highway bus service after 1925. Most services were discontinued in the 1930's. The last, from Toronto to Richmond Hill, was abandoned in 1948. [Rockwood]

The industrial city was also a centre of entertainment and the arts. Touring acts and shows from south of the border came to the big cities to entertain the urban masses. Even "Toronto the Good" offered diversions ranging from dance halls to movies and excursions to the amusement park at Sunnyside beach. The railway service available in major cities made it much easier to travel for amusement as well. Attractions like Niagara Falls brought in throngs of curious tourists who stayed one or two nights or perhaps just for the day. By the turn of the century, professional sports such as hockey and baseball were increasingly popular forms of entertainment. For those with more cultured tastes, cities were centres of intellectual life, the seat of museums, universities, art galleries, publishing houses, and theatres.

The city was continually influenced by the arrival of immigrants from different countries who introduced new religions, values and traditions into its cultural life. It projected its dynamic culture into the countryside along with its economic influence. The telegraph brought information from around the world to newspaper offices. City editors and journalists interpreted the news and shipped their thoughts fresh from the press by train to outlying districts. As electronic media like radio and television were introduced in the twentieth century, they, too, would be produced and distributed from the big cities.

In the twentieth century, the automobile ushered in a new phase of urban growth around the Golden Horseshoe. Street railways declined, unable to compete with travel which allowed individuals to move about on their own schedules. The rise of the car reinforced the growth of automobile manufacturing centres like Oshawa and Oakville and steel centres such as Hamilton. Cars required pavement, and governments cooperated by improving existing roads to accommodate automobile traffic. When these roads grew congested, they constructed expressways which ultimately superseded railways as the primary transportation links between regions. The first in Canada was the Queen Elizabeth Way, opened from Toronto to St. Catharines in 1939 by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. After the Second World War, Highway 401 was constructed along the north side of the horseshoe.



MIDDLE ROAD BRIDGE, MISSISSAUGA AND ETOBICOKE

The Middle Road Bridge, designed by Frank Barber, a well-known bridge designer, was opened to traffic in November 1909. This single-span bowstring truss bridge is 26.1 metres from end to end. An excellent example of bridge-building techniques of the day, it is one of five bridges in Ontario protected with a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation. The easement protecting this bridge is an innovative utilization of this conservation tool.



Middle Road Bridge, Mississauga and Etobicoke.



The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, Toronto

The restoration of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre was the largest project of its kind in Canada. Built to feature vaudeville performances and silent films, the original complex was known as the



Loew's Yonge Street Theatre, 1929.

Loew's Yonge Street Theatre. The lower theatre (now called the Elgin) opened on December 15, 1913; directly over it, seven stories above the street, was the Winter Garden, which officially opened on February 16, 1914. The "stacked" theatre complex was the Canadian flagship for American theatre impresario Marcus Loew and was designed by architect Thomas Lamb.

The theatres, which could operate at the same time, featured such greats as George Burns and Gracie Allen, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Sophie Tucker, and Milton Berle. With the arrival of "talkies" and the decline of vaudeville, the Winter Garden closed its doors in 1928 and remained closed for more than 60 years. The lower theatre converted to sound, changed to an all-movie policy, and continued on as one of Toronto's premiere movie palaces.

Over the years, the building deteriorated. In 1981 it was purchased by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and for the next several years, various plans were developed for its continued use. During this time, both theatres were designated as National Historic Sites. In 1984 a retrofit of the Elgin Theatre took place in preparation for the Canadian premiere of the hit musical "CATS", which opened in March of 1985. The show ran for two years; two months later, the full restoration began.

Architecturally, the style of the building provided the important link between the nickelodeon, vaudeville, and movie palace eras. The building exemplified the old and new of these changing times and contained features unprecedented in the traditional vaudeville theatres of Toronto. Therefore, the restoration preserved alterations and additions and integrated them in a manner sympathetic to the original architecture. Highlights of the restoration included: the removal of 28 layers of paint in the main lobby entrance; in the Elgin, the opera boxes, which had been removed in the 1960s, were recreated; plaster details over the proscenium and balcony fascia were sculpted, cast and replaced; over 300,000 sheets of aluminum leaf were used in a seven step re-gilding process; over 10,000 square feet of surfaces were conserved or recreated; in the Winter Garden, 1,500 pounds of raw bread dough was used to clean the painted walls and over 5,000 beech tree branches were used to recreate the ceiling.

Besides the restoration, 65,000 square feet of new space were added, including an eight-storey backstage addition housing modern dressing rooms, loading docks and two separate rehearsal studios. New



Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre, during restoration, 1988.

lobby spaces, washrooms, and escalators were also part of the modernization of the building.

Today, the complex is operated by the Foundation as a live performance venue offering the best in Canadian shows and productions from around the world. The Foundation also provides public access and awareness through education and tour programs. There are various displays throughout the building: samples of original vaudeville scenery; an architectural model and display towers; an original dressing room with artifacts from the era; and a backstage exhibit housing the Winter Garden's original lighting board and Simplex silent film projector.

The restoration was made possible through partnerships with all levels of government, corporate sponsors, and individual donors. A strong corps of volunteers provided support and assistance during the restoration and continue to participate in special events and activities.



Elgin Theatre, restored, 1989.



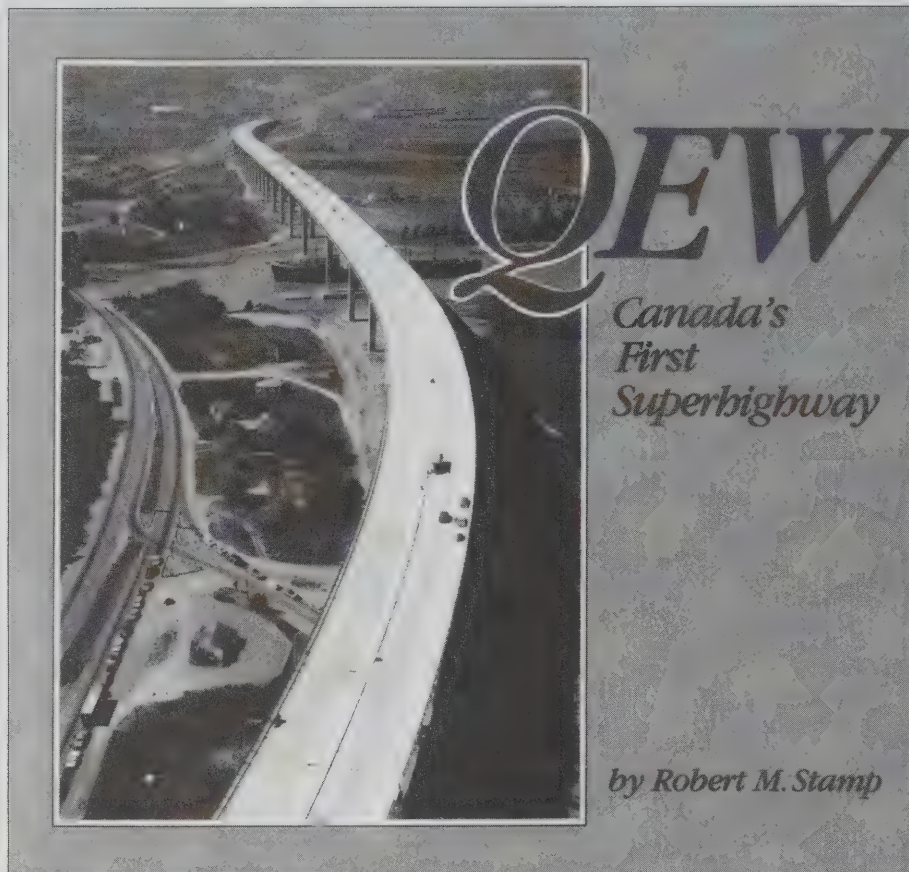
For further reading on the history and restoration of the Elgin Winter Garden Theatre Centre, see Hilary Russell, *Double Take: The Story of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatres* (1989), a publication of the Foundation.



Winter Garden Theatre, restored, 1989.

As the last operating double-decker theatre in the world, the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre represents an excellent example of adaptive re-use of a historical building. It combines architecturally significant and historic spaces with modern-day theatrical requirements and patron comforts.

The revenue generated currently from this centre covers its operating costs and in addition provides funds to support the overall work of the Foundation.



The mobility of the automobile allowed urban workers to travel further to work, which in turn facilitated development farther away from the city. Cars also allowed postwar suburbs to spread out over larger areas. By the 1970s it was apparent that the remaining farmlands in the horseshoe would soon be filled with more suburbs, strip malls, shopping centres, and industrial parks. This development prompted a new public concern about land use.

Farmlands were not the only resource threatened by modern development. Industrial by-products and urban sewage systems polluted many rivers and lakes in the region. The Carolinian forest of the Golden Horseshoe now exists only in isolated patches hemmed in by urban development. The Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine, two of the region's unique natural areas, have been besieged by a variety of developments. Although the Escarpment was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations, it is not an isolated sanctuary. It lies directly in the path of the area's urban industrial sprawl for almost a third of its length. Throughout the history of European settlement in the region, it has been exploited for its water power and as a source of building materials such as limestone, gravel, and sand. The rugged topography and sandy soils of the Oak Ridges Moraine have exempted it from intensive agricultural development but, like the Escarpment, it is mined extensively as a source of aggregates for construction industries.



The Foundation provided a grant in 1987 to assist with the publication of Robert M. Stamp, *QEW, Canada's First Superhighway*. Similar books supported by the Foundation are Robert M. Stamp, *Bridging the Border: the Structures of Canadian-American Relations* (1992), and Robert R. Taylor, *Touring St. Catharines in a REO circa 1910-1920* (1992)



ROSENEATH CAROUSEL

In 1928, the Roseneath Agricultural Society (RAS) purchased a second-hand carousel that had been in use at Mohawk Park in Brantford, Ontario. The carousel was built c.1900 by C.W. Parker Company in Abilene, Kansas. It has 40 horses with stylized flowing manes and varied face carvings. Another attractive (but not original) feature of the carousel is a 1925 Wurlitzer Military Band organ that plays music from paper roles. The carousel and organ operated from 1932 to 1986.

In 1990, the Foundation provided funding to assist in the restoration of the carousel. It now holds a heritage conservation easement in trust on this unique property. The Roseneath Carousel is an example of how the Foundation's conservation techniques can be applied to all types of heritage property, not just to buildings or natural areas.



Roseneath Carousel, Roseneath.

Today, resource extraction companies in both areas have to compete with residents seeking a natural retreat from the city and weekend recreationists. Both groups put new pressures on the natural areas they now take for granted.

YONGE STREET PROVINCIAL PLAQUE UNVEILING

The plaque was installed outside the One Yonge Street offices of the *Toronto Star*, its corporate sponsor. Members of the Queen's Own Rifles and 48th Highlanders install the plaque with, left to right, Joanna Bedard, Chair of the OHF; John Honderich, the *Toronto Star* publisher; and Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall.



"Yonge Street" Provincial Plaque Unveiling, 1996.

Oak Ridges Moraine Properties



Bullen Property, Clarington, 1994, showing maple, oak, pine, and white birch trees.

Seven Foundation properties totalling 592 hectares lie on the Oak Ridges Moraine. The hardwood and mixed forests of the 65 hectare Bullen property lie adjacent to the Ganaraska Forest, a significant natural area on the Moraine. The property was donated in 1980 by Robert and Dorothy Bullen.

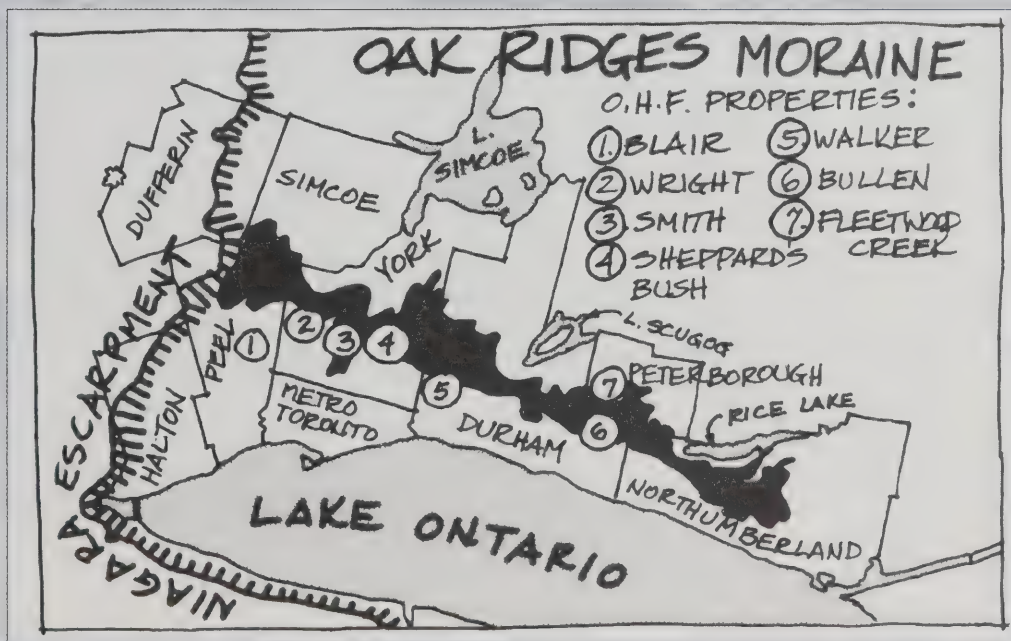
The 70 hectare Walker property, donated in 1978 by Mr. and Mrs. James Walker, is located near Uxbridge and is linked to the Glen Major Forests, owned by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. This natural area forms part of the headwaters of Duffin Creek.

Sheppard's Bush and the Smith property lie within the Town of Aurora. The forests at Sheppard's Bush were donated in 1972 by E. Reginald Sheppard. The Smith property was donated in 1992 by the estate of Anne Bartley Smith.

The Wright and Blair properties fall within the Humber River watershed. Both are small but play an important role in conserving the headwaters of the Humber River. The Wright property, one of the early natural heritage acquisitions of the Foundation, was donated by Peter Wright in 1970. The Blair property was donated by Sydney M. Blair in 1981.



Checking the sap buckets at Sheppard's Bush, Aurora, 1981.



Map of Oak Ridges Moraine.



Former Hamilton Custom House, now the Ontario Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, Hamilton.

Development in the Golden Horseshoe has been both extensive and suburban, and intensive and urban. In city centres, land values have increased more dramatically than elsewhere in the region. Building technologies have allowed office towers of seventy floors or more, making the preservation of smaller, older buildings difficult to justify in economic terms. After the Second World War, much historic architecture was lost to new development.

Today the Golden Horseshoe, already home to millions of people, continues to grow at a steady rate. The province and municipalities are still struggling with the question of how to regulate land use in a manner that will permit growth and economic prosperity while conserving important elements of the natural world and key aspects of our past. As this complex issue continues to be debated, the Foundation's projects illustrate what can be done to conserve the essentials of our natural and cultural heritage within a changing world.



Scotsdale Farm, 1983.

From left to right, Larry Ryan, Executive Secretary, Heritage Trust, Ontario Heritage Foundation, G.H.U. "Terk" Bayly, Chair of the Foundation's Trust Committee, and John White, Chair of the Foundation.



SCOTSDALE FARM

The property is located in Halton Hills just west of Georgetown. It is on the Niagara Escarpment and it provides a permanent route for the Bruce Trail. Portions of the property continue to be used for farming and the breeding of cattle, while other areas contain provincially significant flora and fauna.

Scotsdale Farm was bequeathed to the Foundation in 1983 from the estate of Stewart and Letty Bennett. The bequest included 218 hectares of land, an art collection containing works by well known Canadian artists, a number of houses and outbuildings, and a cash endowment. The art collection was transferred by the Foundation to the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre in Guelph in 1984 for permanent display and safekeeping. The donation is the largest property and cash gift ever received by the Foundation.

Scotsdale Farm is currently operated by the Foundation as a conference and reception facility for special events, weddings and corporate retreats.

Chapter Four

CENTRAL ONTARIO



"Gateway To Huronia", provincial plaque unveiling, 1957, Midland.

From left to right are Rev. Gérard Goulet, S.J., Provincial of the Jesuits of Lower Canada, Rev. J.F. McCaffrey, S.J., Director of the Martyrs' Shrine, Bryan L. Cathcart, Minister of the Department of Travel and Publicity, W.H. Cranston, Chair of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario, Lloyd Letherby, MPP Simcoe East, and George Johnston, MPP Simcoe Centre.

"Here we found a great change in the country, this part being very fine, mostly cleared, with many hills and several streams, which make it an agreeable district. I went to look at their Indian corn which at that time was far advanced for the season.

This district seems to me very pleasant in contrast to such a bad country as that through which we had just come...."

Samuel de Champlain's description of Huronia, 1615.

When driving north through the middle of central Ontario, a traveller observes dramatic changes in the passing scenery. At first the road is flanked by rich agricultural lands or grazing dairy cattle. Well tended fields surround prosperous farmsteads in a landscape much like that of southwestern Ontario. But midway through the region the character of the farmlands begins to change. The land is cultivated less intensively and rocks crop up in meadows. Now the forest crowds in on clearings until signs of agricultural activity dwindle. Sugar maple and beech trees give way to white pine and yellow birch, broken only by rugged rock faces, bogs, beaver marshes or sparkling blue lakes. The traveller has passed from the Great Lakes Lowlands of southern Ontario into the Shield country of Ontario.

For thousands of years the Great Lakes Lowlands have sustained a way of life different from that of the Shield. Central Ontario occupies part of both regions and is also a transition zone between the two. The Foundation's conservation efforts highlight many of the contrasts between these areas as well as the relationships that link them.





THE PRECAMBRIAN SHIELD

The surrounding rock formation is among the oldest of the Earth's crust. Formed between one and two billion years ago, it is part of the Precambrian Shield which occupies two-thirds of the surface area of Ontario. Unsuitable to agriculture, the Shield impeded early settlement, yet it contained the economic potential from which much of Ontario's wealth is derived. Beneath its surface lies the greater part of the province's mineral resources, while on it grows most of its timber and pulpwood. Thousands of lakes were carved in the Shield by the ice-sheets of the last glacial period and these, with its forests, offer unparalleled facilities for vacationers and sportsmen. [Bala]



The Precambrian Shield provincial plaque, Bala.

The southern part of central Ontario is in the Great Lakes Lowlands, a fertile plain that originated 15,000 years ago when glaciers and post-glacial lakes deposited sand, clay, and till on top of limestone bedrock. The ice age left behind depressions where lakes formed and deposits that created irregular hills. The lowlands were colonized by plants and animals which enriched their soils over thousands of years. They sustained slightly less biological diversity than the Carolinian zone because their climate was slightly harsher. Nevertheless, prior to mass agricultural settlement they were home to a wealth of plant and animal life.



FLEETWOOD CREEK

Perched on the "shoulders" of the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Fleetwood Creek Natural Area protects the forests and swamps in the headwaters of Fleetwood Creek. This 365 hectare site, home to 268 species of flora and 44 species of breeding birds, was donated to the Foundation by the Pangman family in the mid-1980s. The Kawartha Region Conservation Authority and the Foundation work in partnership to preserve the property.

The Shield country to the north is a less fertile region with more varied terrain. Here retreating glaciers deposited gravel and sand in low-lying areas and scraped high points bare revealing bedrock that dates back billions of years. The landscape left behind by the glaciers was rocky and watery. In well drained areas, blue lakes are linked by fast-flowing streams but there are also numerous marshes, swamps, and fens where the waters run more slowly supporting rich and complex ecosystems. The solid ground in between has thin, acidic and stony soils, which with a shorter growing season, limit farming. Unlike southern areas transformed by agriculture, the wildlife habitat of the Shield has survived relatively intact.

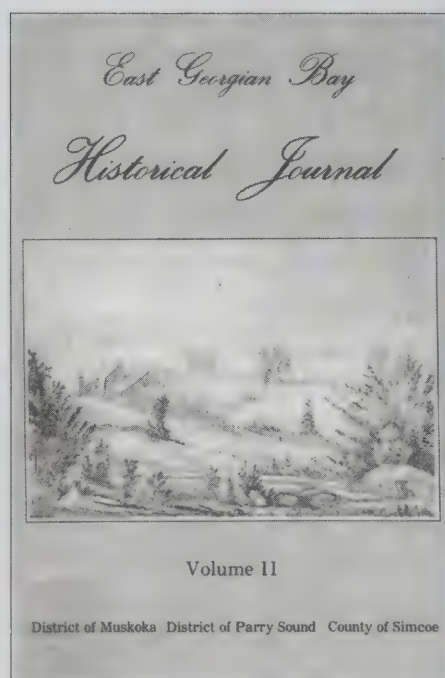
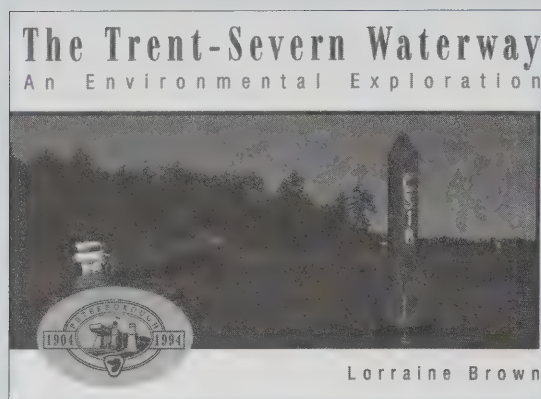
NIAGARA ESCARPMENT IN SIMCOE COUNTY

There are over 100 parks and open spaces along the Niagara Escarpment, including four in the northern part of Simcoe County: Noisy River Provincial Nature Reserve, Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, Devil's Glen Provincial Park and the Nottawasaga Lookout. In 1988, the Foundation provided funding to the Huronia District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources to help construct platforms and signs that interpret the Niagara Escarpment at the Devil's Glen Provincial Park.



Fleetwood Creek, near Manvers, southern Victoria County.

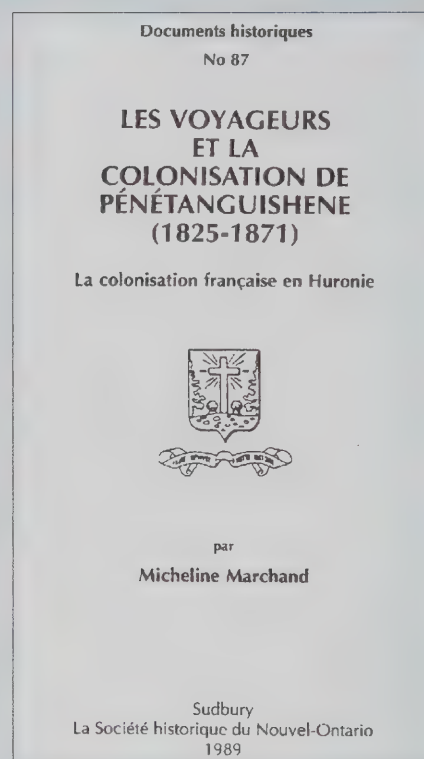
Publications About Central Ontario Funded by the Foundation



From 1977 until 1995, the Foundation administered a grants program that promoted public knowledge of Ontario's heritage. The Foundation offered funding for historical research, book publication, conferences, and film or video production. The work supported by the program covered the disciplines of architecture, archaeology, history and natural heritage. It included local history, oral history, volumes on Ontario artists and artifacts, and studies of aboriginal languages and traditions. Some of the publications relating to central Ontario that were supported

by Foundation grants are pictured here. A sampling of their content: **The East Georgian Bay Historical Journal, Volume II** provides interesting stories unearthed by local researchers on subjects as varied as gunsmiths and soda water manufacturers in Simcoe County, the architecture of Parry Sound and manufacturers of wood products in Muskoka.

Micheline Marchand, **Les Voyageurs et La Colonisation de Pénétanguishene (1825-1871)** La colonisation française en Huronie, Documents historique No. 87 (1989) documents the role of francophone voyageurs in the settlement of Penetanguishene.



The GENESIS of BARRIE 1783•1858



by W. Allen Fisher

Woodchester Villa

BRACEBRIDGE • MUSKOKA • ONTARIO



James Angus, **A Deo Victoria: The Story of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company 1871-1942**, (1990) tells the story of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company. It is also a social history of lumber barons, the First Nations of the Dokis Reserve and many other people whose lives were affected by the harvesting of the forests of the Georgian Bay area.

Lorraine Brown, **The Trent-Severn Waterway: An Environmental Exploration** (1994) illustrates the integration of natural and cultural heritage in a historic waterway of central Ontario.



A DEO VICTORIA

The Story of the Georgian Bay Lumber Company
1871 - 1942

James T. Angus

Ontario Heritage Foundation
Local History Series #2

Severn Publications Limited
Thunder Bay
1990



BAUER PROPERTY

The cliff overlooking Lake Solitaire in the J. Albert Bauer Provincial Nature Reserve once supported breeding Peregrine falcons. Located about 25 kilometres northeast of Huntsville, this rugged property is blanketed with forests of sugar maple, yellow birch and hemlock. Bertha Bauer donated this reserve to the Foundation in 1976 in honour of her brother Dr. John Bauer.



ONTARIO'S CAPE COD: MUSKOKA-PARRY SOUND

Although they are hundreds of kilometres away from the Atlantic coast, some lakeshores in the Muskoka-Parry Sound region support flora native to the coastal plain between Georgia and Cape Cod. Examples of this phenomena are the pink flowered Virginia meadow beauty, Carolina yellow-eyed grass, screwstem and ridged yellow flax. These plants migrated from the eastern seaboard through the Mohawk Valley in what is now New York State at the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago.

For further discussion of this phenomena, see Paul Keddy and Anita Payne, "Ontario's Cape Cod: Misplaced Flora of the Atlantic Coast", in John B. Theberge (ed.), *Legacy: The Natural Heritage of Ontario* (1989), published with funding from the Foundation.



Bauer Property, Muskoka.

An area of transition runs from Severn Sound on Georgian Bay in the west to the Kawartha Lakes in the east. Here soils are mixed with sand, cobble, and boulder deposits. The area is an ecological border-zone where many northern flora and fauna at the southern limit of their range mingle with southern species that are found no farther north. Although both the Lowlands and the Shield are part of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest zone, the mix of trees on either side is different. In the Lowlands there are more sugar maple, beech and oak; the Shield typically has more birch, pine, hemlock, and cedar.

Many special habitats and rare species are tucked away in corners of the two zones. An unusual “alvar” habitat can be found on Manitoulin Island and east of Lake Simcoe. “Alvar” is an Estonian word coined to describe areas where limestone bedrock is close to the surface. The poor and thin soils freeze and thaw frequently in late fall and early spring. Exceedingly wet in the spring, they are baked by the sun as the weather warms and often stay dry throughout the summer. Only hardy plants survive these conditions.

In the southern Shield another biological oddity can be found. Plant species normally at home in the Atlantic coastal plain grace the shorelines of many lakes in Muskoka and Haliburton. The Virginia meadow beauty, with its striking pink flower, is one example. These plants likely established themselves when both areas were linked by the coastlines of post-glacial seas.



THE SERPENT MOUNDS

The principal mound of this group is the only known example in Canada of a native burial mound of serpentine shape. The earliest archaeological excavation on the site was carried out by David Boyle in 1896. Artifacts and skeletal remains were discovered, but the first comprehensive investigation was not started until 1955. The mounds, somewhat similar to those of the Ohio Valley, appear to have been built while the region was occupied by the Indians of the Point Peninsula culture, and are thought to have been religious or ceremonial in nature. Numerous burials have been found in mounds, which are estimated to have been constructed about the second century A.D. [Serpent Mounds Provincial Park, south of Keene]



Virginia meadow beauty.



TUSHINGHAM-THOMSON PROPERTY

The Tushingham property, located near Coldwater, is the site of a former large Wendat (Huronian) village which may have been the site of a Jesuit mission. It was donated to the Foundation in 1987 by Douglas and Margaret Thomson. The University of Toronto, in partnership with the Foundation, has conducted archaeological research on the site.



Archaeological excavation at Tushingham-Thomson Site.

The ecological contrasts between Lowland and Shield have fostered different ways of life for their human inhabitants. After the introduction of corn, native peoples of the Lowlands became farmers. Although they supplemented their diet with hunting and fishing, they existed primarily on crops. Agriculture permitted larger populations longer residency in one location, and the accumulation of more material goods. As a result, their village sites provide modern archaeologists with sufficient evidence to document a relatively complete picture of their life. Some native peoples deliberately left a distinctive imprint on the landscape. The Serpent Mounds near Peterborough are reminders of the spiritual beliefs of native peoples and are similar to larger burial mounds constructed in the mid-western United States and northwestern Ontario.



Ste. Marie Among the Hurons, Midland, 1957.



"The Huron Fish Weirs", provincial plaque unveiling, Atherley Narrows, 1965.

Left to right: the Hon. Matthew B. Dymond, MPP, Chief Irving J. Douglas, Chief of the Chippewa, Rama First Nation, Jay Cody, past president of the Orillia and District Chamber of Commerce, the Hon. Leslie M. Frost, former premier of Ontario, William Cranston, Co-Chair of the Historic Sites Board, Isabel D. Post, Mayor of Orillia, and the Hon. John P. Roberts, Premier of Ontario.



HURON FISH WEIRS

In the narrows joining Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching are the remains of fish weirs. They were noted by Samuel de Champlain when he passed here on September 1, 1615 with a Huron war party en route to attack the Iroquois south of Lake Ontario. The weirs consisted of a large number of stakes driven into the bottom of the narrows, with openings at which nets were placed to catch fish. These weirs (claies) caused Lake Simcoe to be named Lac aux Claies during the French regime. Their remains were noted by archaeologists as early as 1887. [Atherley Narrows]

The Shield, in contrast, sustained a nomadic hunting and gathering existence common to all First Nations before the corn revolution. Here Algonkian peoples followed seasonal migrations in pursuit of fish, game, and wild plants. Their way of life required them to travel light in small mobile groups able to live off the land. Their seasonal camps, tool-making workshops, and burial grounds are rich sources of archaeological resources.

When Europeans first arrived in central Ontario, they found its Lowlands occupied by two groups of Iroquoian peoples similar to the Attiwandaron in southwestern Ontario. In the early seventeenth century the Petun lived in nine villages centred around the Blue Mountain area of the Niagara Escarpment. They were called the Tobacco Nation by the French who were fascinated by their custom of smoking tobacco in pipes.

The more powerful Wendat nation lived to the east. They numbered about 20,000 people who occupied twenty villages between the southeast shore of Georgian Bay and the north shore of Lake Simcoe. During the first half of the seventeenth century, the Wendat helped the French acquire furs for sale in Europe. Although the Wendat lived in the Great Lakes Lowlands, they acted as middlemen between the French and Algonkian peoples in the fur-rich Shield region to the north. The French called them the Huron, meaning “boar’s head”, a reference to the hairstyle of Wendat men. The Wendat homeland became known as Huronia, a name that has endured to the present day.

THE UTHHOFF TRAIL, ORILLIA, LOCAL MARKING PLAQUE.

Many of the railway lines that once criss-crossed Ontario have now been abandoned and are returning to nature. In some cases, new uses are being found for these cross-country corridors. In 1992 the Foundation was a partner in a project which provided an interpretive plaque to explain the heritage of a branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway which is now used as a nature trail by the Orillia Naturalists Club. The transition of the railway right-of-way from an economic to a natural heritage function is a unique facet of the story of the Uthhoff Trail.



“The Coldwater Mill”, provincial plaque unveiling, 1958, Coldwater.

When the Wendat allied with the French, the French sent missionaries to Huronia to convert the Wendat to Christianity. The Jesuit missionaries reported home in letters known as the Jesuit **Relations**, creating a permanent written record of their work in the region. In 1639 the Jesuits built a fortified mission on the Wye River called Ste. Marie Among the Hurons. By 1647 the French population of Huronia numbered 18 priests and 24 laymen at a time when French settlements on the St. Lawrence had little more than 200 people.



THE COLDWATER MILL 1833

In 1830 aboriginals of the surrounding region were gathered on a reserve along a newly opened road connecting The Narrows (Orillia) and Coldwater. The superintendent, Capt. Thomas Gummersal Anderson, and a band of Ojibwa under Chief Aisance, settled in Coldwater. Land-hungry settlers influenced the government to move the aboriginals to Rama and Beausoleil Island in 1838-39. This grist-mill, financed with aboriginal funds, was constructed by Stephen Chapman, Jacob Gill and others in 1833. The mill was sold to George Chapman in 1849. [Coldwater]



Historic Buildings of Central Ontario



St. John's Church, Peterborough, 1834.

Designed in the early English Gothic Revival style, St. John's is the oldest church in Peterborough County. It is still used for religious services. A Foundation easement covers both the exterior and interior heritage features of the building.



Commanda General Store, Commanda.

Built about 1885, during Commanda's "boom" years, the general store played a significant role in the economic development of the community and its area. The building is a rare example, especially for this part of Ontario, of High Victorian commercial architecture.

[Commanda]

A Foundation easement protects the interior as well as the exterior of this historic structure, now operated as a public museum by the Gurd and Area Historical Corporation.

The buildings pictured here display diverse styles that reflect the rich architectural heritage of central Ontario. All were restored with provincial funding and are in regular use today. They are protected by heritage conservation easements held in trust by the Foundation. Most of these buildings have original interiors that are covered by the terms of the easement.



Dufferin County Courthouse, Orangeville.

The Dufferin County courthouse and jail in Orangeville was designed by Guelph architect C.J. Soule in High Victorian style and constructed by Dobbie and Grierson in 1880-81. Restored and still used for county administration, the building's heritage interior and exterior are protected by an easement held by the Foundation.



St. James-on-the-Lines was built in 1836 to serve the British military and naval establishment at Penetanguishene. The interior and exterior of the church are to be preserved in accord with an easement held by the Foundation.



The Victoria County Courthouse, Lindsay.

Designed by the Toronto architects Frederic Cumberland and George Storn and completed in 1863, the Victoria County Courthouse has a classical central pavilion with flanking symmetrical wings. It was one of a number of courthouses built after the passage of the Municipal Act of 1849, which established the county system across southern Ontario. Protected by a Foundation heritage conservation easement, it is still in daily use.



NINE MILE PORTAGE

Site of eastern terminus of a portage from Kempenfelt Bay to Willow Creek and thence by the Nottawasaga River to Georgian Bay. In the winter of 1813-14, a force under Lieut.-Colonel Robert McDouall followed it on the way to relieve the isolated British garrison at Michilimackinac. That summer it was developed as a rough wagon road and until about 1820 was in frequent use for the transport of supplies to Penetanguishene and the western military and fur trading posts. [Barrie]

The Wendat acquired useful goods such as cooking utensils, tools, and weapons from the French. But, in the end, the relationship destroyed their society because they had no immunity to European diseases such as smallpox and measles. In 1638 half their population was wiped out in one epidemic alone. They were weakened and vulnerable when the Iroquois of the Five Nations invaded in 1648 and 1649. After the Five Nations plundered and torched their villages, the Wendat dispersed. The Wendat's Petun neighbours suffered the same fate at the hands of the Five Nations the following year.



The Madill Church, south of Huntsville.



THE MADILL CHURCH, 1873

This small square-timbered building, which dates back to the pioneer era in Muskoka, is one of the few churches of its type remaining in Ontario. It was built by a Wesleyan Methodist congregation on land donated by John Madill, an early settler. [south of Huntsville]

Huronian occupies a special place in the story of heritage conservation in Ontario. Its history was one of the first subjects of Ontario's past to be documented by Europeans. It was also the first place Europeans established permanent residence. The Jesuit missionaries who were killed by the Five Nations later became martyrs to the cause of Christianity. Fascination with Huronia inspired much of the early cultural conservation work in the province. Ste. Marie Among



St. James-on-the-Lines, Penetanguishene.



ST. JAMES-ON-THE-LINES, 1836

This garrison church was erected 1836-38 on the Penetanguishene military reserve. It was also attended by military pensioners and civilians since it housed the only Protestant congregation in the vicinity until the 1870s. Building funds were obtained largely through the exertions of the local naval commandant, Captain John Moberly, R.N. The first rector, Reverend Geo. Hallen, held the post for thirty-six years. Many of the community's pioneers and military leaders are buried in its cemetery. [Penetanguishene]

the Hurons, burned and abandoned by the Jesuits in 1649, was probed by amateur archaeologists in the nineteenth century. After the Second World War, professional archaeologists excavated sites there. It was customary for a Jesuit from the nearby Martyrs' Shrine to sit on the Historic Sites Board. Huronia was also a favourite subject of board members, such as Wilfred Jury, an archaeologist who excavated sites there in the 1950s, and William Cranston, a newspaper publisher from Midland who was active in the Conservative Party. Not surprisingly, many of the Historic Sites Board's early plaques identified sites in Huronia. In 1955 the province began a complete reconstruction of Ste. Marie Among the Hurons.

The Literary Stricklands



"Catharine Parr Traill", provincial plaque unveiling, 1958, Lakefield.

From left to right are W.C. Grant, Reeve of Lakefield, Robertson Davies, Editor of the Peterborough Examiner, Professor T.L. McIlwraith, Archaeological and Historic Sites Board, Anne Traill and Anne Atwood, grand-daughters of Catharine Parr Traill, and Robert Boyer, MPP for Muskoka.

Much of our knowledge of pioneer life is derived from written records of the period. First-hand accounts are not plentiful because most immigrants to Upper Canada were either illiterate or too busy making a living to document their experiences. Still, a few early settlers kept diaries, wrote memoirs, or published settlement guides for prospective immigrants overseas. Some of the best-known chroniclers of the pioneer experience were members of the Strickland family who settled in Peterborough County.

Samuel Strickland (1804-1867), who arrived in the colony in 1825, would later write **Twenty-seven years in Canada West** (1853). It was his two older sisters, however, who established the family's literary reputation. Catharine Parr Traill (1802-1899) penned **The Backwoods of Canada** (1836) and **The Female Emigrant's Guide** (1854). She also earned a reputation as a naturalist for **Canadian Wildflowers** (1868) and **Studies of Plant Life in Canada** (1885). Susanna Moodie (1803-1885) published **Roughing It in the Bush** (1852), which would become the best-known description of backwoods pioneering in Ontario. After moving to the Belleville area, she wrote **Life in the Clearings** (1853), an account of her experiences in an older, more settled area. Both sisters were frequent contributors to **The Literary Garland** (1838-51) a monthly magazine published in Montreal.



This photograph from the 1880s shows Susanna Moodie (left) and Catharine Parr Traill with a niece (standing).



THE ROBINSON SETTLEMENT, 1825

In an effort to alleviate poverty and unemployment in Ireland, the British government sponsored a settlement of Irish emigrants in the Newcastle District of Upper Canada. Peter Robinson, later the province's Commissioner of Crown Lands, was appointed superintendent and, in May, 2,024 persons sailed from Cork. A few settled elsewhere and disease thinned their numbers, but by September the remainder were gathered in temporary shelters on the site of Peterborough. Under Robinson's supervision, free rations were distributed until November, 1826, cabins were erected and 1,878 settlers successfully established on land in the Peterborough region. [Peterborough]

ORIGIN OF THE NAME "MUSKOKA"

Muskoka is believed to be named after Musquakie or Misquuckkey, an Ojibwa chief also known as Chief Yellowhead (c. 1769-1864). On June 27, 1959, the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario erected a plaque to Chief Yellowhead in Orillia.

The history of European settlement in central Ontario displays differences between the Lowlands and the Shield just as clearly as the archaeological record reveals the different ways of life of native peoples in the two regions. Since the agricultural lands of central Ontario lie well inland from Lake Ontario, settlement did not spread into the area until the 1820s. It developed first along waterways that penetrated the interior from the south.

These transportation corridors followed routes first used by First Nations. One ancient route crossed the Great Lakes peninsula at its narrowest point. It ran north from Lake Ontario along the Humber River valley, then overland to the Holland River, which drained into Lake Simcoe. From Lake Simcoe, different routes could be followed to reach Georgian Bay. The British built Yonge Street in 1796 to improve the southern stretch of this route; it offered a way for settlers to travel inland in subsequent decades. Another major water route cut diagonally



The Northern Railway's large terminal at Collingwood, shown here in the 1880s, reflected the railway's importance in the town's economy.



across the region between its southeast and northwest corners. It followed the Trent River from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake, then ran northwest through the Kawartha Lakes and across a height of land to Lake Simcoe, which in turn drained into Georgian Bay via the Severn River. A series of canals and locks was begun along this route during the nineteenth century, leading to the creation of the present-day Trent-Severn Waterway.

A rare experiment with government-sponsored emigration brought a large group of settlers to the Kawartha Lakes district in 1825. The British government resettled about 2,000 farmers from poor districts of Ireland on good agricultural lands north of Rice Lake. Although the immigrants thrived in their new home, the scheme was judged too expensive to repeat. Other settlers in the Kawarthas were the literary Strickland sisters, Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill. Moodie's *Roughing it in the Bush* and Traill's *Backwoods of Canada* became classic accounts of pioneer life.

The majority of British immigrants belonged to the Anglican, Presbyterian, or Roman Catholic churches. Settlers of American background tended to belong to sects such as the Methodists or Baptists. Both were evangelical denominations that catered to frontier communities by sending ministers on circuits along backwoods roads or by holding camp meetings. In the absence of ordained clergy, lay preachers led meetings. Sunday services proved an important social occasion for settlers isolated on backwoods farms. Newly settled areas quickly established congregations and built permanent places of worship.

As in other parts of Ontario, villages often grew up around the local grist mill. Communities located on waterways large enough to provide transportation as well as waterpower tended to develop faster. The small cities of the region, Collingwood, Barrie, Lindsay, and Peterborough, grew as centres of trade and administration for outlying agricultural areas.

Most of the good farmlands in the Lowlands were settled by mid-century. The government encouraged settlement northward by building colonization roads into Shield country. At the time no one knew that they were largely unsuitable for farming. Many homesteaders took up lands in the Muskoka and Haliburton regions and painstakingly cleared fields, only to discover that the soils and climate could not sustain commercial agriculture. Disappointed, they turned to trapping or to logging to supplement subsistence farming. In time, most drifted away to other frontiers or moved closer to jobs in town. Although many of their clearings can still be seen beside highways and backroads on the Shield, much of their effort has been reclaimed by the forest.

The Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Union Railway was completed between Toronto and Collingwood in 1855. It was known as a "portage line" because, like Yonge Street and native routes that had preceded it, it connected the lower and upper Great Lakes by crossing the Great Lakes Peninsula at its narrowest point.

Public interest in the line exemplified the railway building fervour that swept Upper Canada in the 1850s. When construction began in 1851, over 20,000 people turned up for the sod-turning ceremony in Toronto. One of its first locomotives was named the Lady Elgin in honour of the wife of the Governor General of Canada. As the railway neared completion, a Toronto newspaper speculated enthusiastically about its potential for exploiting the resources of the land:

"In a few days we may expect to offer our congratulations... on seeing the Lady Elgin polishing the iron bands, on hearing her shrill whistle rouse the dormant energies of the backwoodsman to action, and proclaiming to the owls, and the bats, the wolves and the bears, that the bushes and the forests, in which they have hitherto found shelter in Simcoe [County], can no longer continue to be their abode. "Lady Elgin's" shrill whistle will announce to the forests, that from henceforth she will call daily, to convey the rich treasures of the maiden soil which they cover, to the marts of traffic, commerce, and wealth."

Toronto Patriot 1854.

The Ontario, Simcoe and Huron connected Toronto with the upper Great Lakes and the resources of the Shield. In 1858 it was renamed the Northern Railway; thirty years later it was absorbed by the Grand Trunk Railway.

Colonization Roads



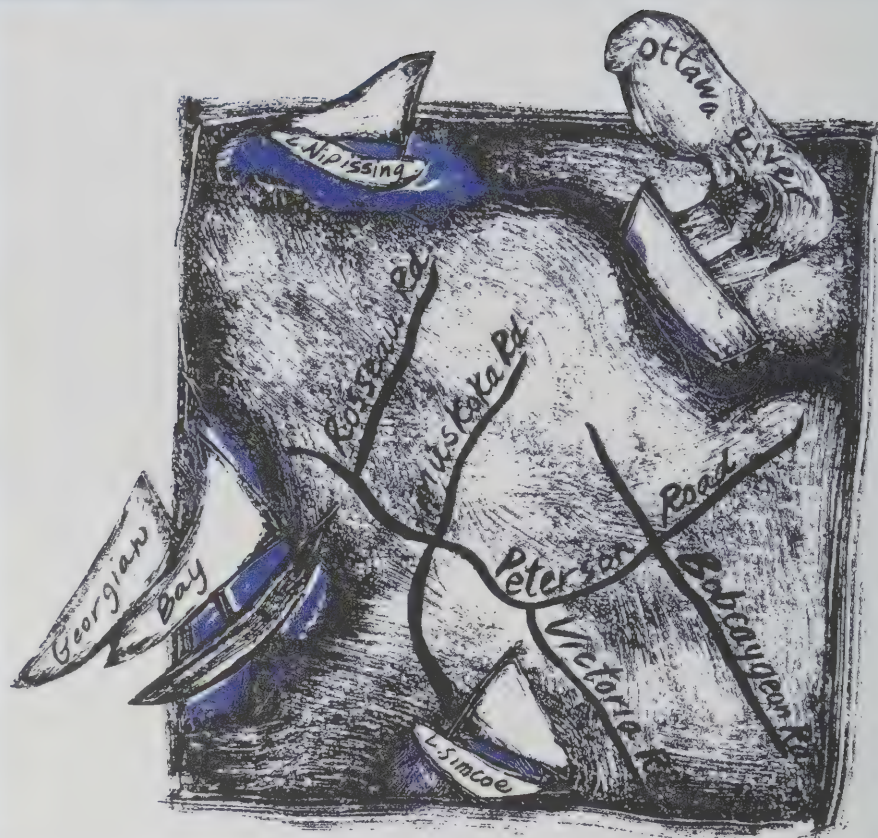
THE MUSKOKA ROAD, 1858

During the 1850s and 1860s the government attempted to open up the districts lying north of the settled townships by means of 'Colonization Roads'. Free land was offered to persons who would settle along the route, clear a stated acreage, and help maintain the road. In 1858 construction began on a road from Washago to the interior of Muskoka. R.J. Oliver was appointed the government land agent at Severn Bridge and directed the progress of the settlement. The road was completed to the site of Bracebridge by 1861, and the adjacent bush-land formed into the townships of Morrison, Muskoka, Draper and Macaulay. [south of Gravenhurst]



THE PETERSON ROAD

Muskoka Falls was the western terminus of the Peterson Road, a colonization road named after surveyor Joseph S. Peterson. Constructed 1858-1863 at a cost of some \$39,000, it stretched about 114 miles between the Muskoka and Opeongo Roads and formed part of a system of government colonization routes built to open up the southern region of the Precambrian Shield. Poor soil disappointed hopes of large-scale agricultural settlement along this road both on government 'free-grant' lots and on the lands of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company. By the 1870s portions of the route were overgrown, though certain sections aided lumbering and now contribute to the development of an important Ontario vacation area. [Muskoka Falls and Maynooth]



Colonization Roads of Central Ontario



Huntsville streetscape, c. 1900.



"Muskoka Road", provincial plaque unveiling, 1958, Gravenhurst

On the extreme left is Professor George F. Stanley, a member of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.



THE VICTORIA ROAD

In 1854 the government, faced with a decreasing supply of Crown land in the southern part of what is now Ontario, began a network of 'Colonization Roads' to encourage the settlement of the southern fringe of the Precambrian Shield. The Victoria Road, constructed 1859-64, extended from the present village of Glenora for 38-1/2 miles to the Peterson Road in Oakley Township. Most of the 'free-grant' lots along its southern portion were quickly taken up by settlers attracted by the region's lumbering industry, which provided employment and a market for agricultural produce. The land, however, proved to be marginal and, as lumbering declined later in the century, the region's population decreased. The northern section of the Victoria Road was eventually abandoned, but part of the remainder became Highway 505. [north of Kirkfield]



THE ROSSEAU-NIPISSING ROAD

Designed to encourage settlement in what is now the Parry Sound district, the Rosseau-Nipissing Road was authorized in 1864. A survey was completed the following year by J.S. Dennis, provincial land surveyor, and construction began in 1866. Commencing about a mile northwest of Rosseau (now Rosseau) it ran 67 miles northward to the South River, where at its terminus the village of Nipissing came into being. By 1873 the road was open for winter traffic, and two years later was considered negotiable by wheeled vehicles. Although it lost its importance after the railway between Gravenhurst and Callander was built in 1886, most of this pioneer road is still used by local traffic. [Rosseau, Nipissing and Magnetawan]



STEAMBOATING IN MUSKOKA, 1866-1959

The introduction of steam navigation on the Muskoka lakes contributed significantly to the rapid development of Muskoka as a lumbering and resort area. Enormous log booms were towed to the sawmills at Gravenhurst by tug-boats, and excursionists and travellers explored the lakes on passenger vessels whose names – Wenonah, Almic, Sagamo – still haunt the region. [Gravenhurst]



The Sagamo at the locks in Port Carling, 1908.

Although unsuitable for farming, the Shield was a rich resource for the lumber industry. By the mid-point of the nineteenth century, railways were reaching its stands of white pine, the most valuable tree for commercial lumbering. Lumber companies sent crews to the woods every fall to fell, trim and haul trees out to rivers and railheads. Large sawmills were constructed to produce building materials for the growing cities of the American midwest. Thousands of square miles of forest were stripped of their largest and best trees.

Towards the end of the century, tourists were beginning to visit the Shield country as a wilderness haven from the strains of city life. The same railways that facilitated lumbering made it possible for city dwellers to travel northwards in just a few hours. The first northern adventurers camped out at scenic spots or stayed in hotels in lakeside towns. Soon resorts catering to tourists opened for business. Steamboats were launched on the large lakes to convey travellers from the train to their vacation destination. Families loaded with trunkloads of clothes and provisions came to holiday for weeks at a stretch in the summer months.



THE FOUNDING OF BOBCAYGEON

In 1833, shortly after the settlement of this region began, Thomas Need settled here at 'Bobcaygeon', the narrows between Sturgeon and Pigeon Lakes. When the government began the construction in that year of a small lock and canal, Need surveyed a village plot, which was named Rokeby by Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Colborne but was still commonly called Bobcaygeon. Need later opened a store and erected a sawmill and a grist mill. By 1857 the community contained only 150 inhabitants, but subsequently its growth was stimulated by the construction of the Bobcaygeon Colonization Road and by the development of the large lumbering business of Mossom Boyd and his son. Bobcaygeon, with a population of about 1,000, was incorporated as a village by the Victoria County By-law of 1876. [Bobcaygeon]

Many vacationers bought property and built cottages in favourite spots. In the Lowlands, Lake Simcoe, the Kawartha Lakes and the south shore of Georgian Bay were soon colonized by summer residents. To the north, the Muskoka Lakes bore the brunt of the first wave of cottagers. Towns like Gravenhurst, Parry Sound, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Midland, Bobcaygeon, Minden and Haliburton, already centres for the lumber industry, began to thrive on tourism as well.



"Port Carling", provincial plaque unveiling, 1956.



WOODCHESTER VILLA, 1882, BRACEBRIDGE.

Known locally as the “Bird Cage”, this octagonal house was built in 1882 by Henry James Bird, and contained many innovative features aside from its unusual shape. Restored and furnished by the Bracebridge Historical Society, Woodchester Villa is now a public museum. Funding from the Foundation helped restore the house and it is protected by a heritage conservation easement.

Today tourism is an economic mainstay of the region. On Friday evenings in the summertime, highways north of Toronto are jammed with cars of city dwellers heading to their cottages for the weekend. If the traffic is moving well, some have only an hour’s drive to waterfront retreats on Lake Simcoe. Others travel on for one or two hours to reach destinations on the shore of Georgian Bay or the Muskoka Lakes, or else turn east towards lakes in the Kawarthas and the



Woodchester Villa, 1995.



DR. HENRY NORMAN BETHUNE 1890-1939

An internationally-famed humanitarian, surgeon and revolutionary, Bethune was born in Gravenhurst. He graduated from the University of Toronto's medical school during the First World War and saw extensive service in that conflict. While at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital 1929-1933, he gained widespread recognition as a thoracic surgeon. Increasing concern with social and political issues took him to Spain in 1936 where he organized Canadian medical aid for the Loyalist troops and set up the world's first mobile transfusion unit. Two years later he went to China and until his death worked tirelessly as a surgeon and medical advisor with the 8th Route National Revolutionary Army. He is buried in the Mausoleum of Martyrs, Shih Cha Chuang, China. [Gravenhurst]



"Dr. Henry Norman Bethune, 1890-1939", provincial plaque unveiling, 1972, Gravenhurst.

Haliburton Highlands. On Sunday evening, the flow reverses as weekenders return to home and work in the Toronto region. This mass migration has become one of the defining characteristics of central Ontario.



Stephen Leacock



Provincial plaque to Stephen Leacock at his birthplace, Swanmore, Hampshire, England.

The Foundation has been involved in the preservation of the legacy of Stephen Leacock for many years. Provincial plaques have been erected at his birth place in England and his burial place in Ontario. The Foundation holds a heritage conservation easement on his former summer home property in Orillia. It also provided a grant to help publish James A. "Pete" McGarvey, *The Old Brewery Bay: A Leacockian Tale* (1994).



✿ The OLD BREWERY BAY A LEACOCKIAN TALE

JAMES A. "PETE" MCGARVEY



STEPHEN LEACOCK, 1869-1944

This internationally-known author and humorist is buried in the churchyard of St. George's Anglican Church [Sutton, Ontario]. Born in Swanmore, Hampshire, England, Leacock came with his family to this township in 1876. Graduating from the University of Toronto in 1891, he taught at Upper Canada College and, in 1901, began lecturing in political science at McGill University, heading that department, 1908-1936. Though Leacock wrote extensively on political science, economics and history, he achieved his greatest distinction as a humorist. Some of his best work, essentially Canadian in character and spirit, may be found in *Literary Lapses*, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town* and *Arcadian Adventures with the Idle Rich*. Leacock's many humorous books, in English and in translation, have won world-wide recognition. [Sutton]



"Trent University", provincial plaque unveiling, 1970, Peterborough.

From left to right, T.H.B. Symons, president of Trent, Leslie M. Frost, Chancellor of Trent, Hugh F. Waddell, Chair of the Board of Governors of Trent, J. Csumrik, Mayor of Peterborough, and W.H. Cranston, Chair of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.



TRENT UNIVERSITY

Founded through the efforts of a citizens' committee interested in creating a university to serve the Trent valley, Trent University was established by provincial charter in 1963 as a degree-granting institution. Its first students were enrolled the following year. [Peterborough]

Hundreds of years ago, the Iroquoian peoples of the Lowlands and the Algonkian peoples of the Shield maintained good relations because their different ways of life were complementary rather than competitive. The Algonkian had more than enough fish and the Wendat had plenty of corn, so they traded their surpluses for their mutual benefit. This heritage is reflected in the modern relationship between the regions. The lowlands and the Shield will never be exactly alike, but their differences continually stimulate their interaction.

Chapter Five

EASTERN ONTARIO



Inge-va, Perth

"Though the Ottawa River had been a major waterway through nearly two centuries of European penetration, settlement in the Valley itself was sporadic and slow to develop. The harsh climate and difficult terrain served as a major hindrance to prospective settlers. In many parts the land was rugged, with only a thin layer of soil covering the rocky surface of the Precambrian Shield."

J.M.S. Careless, Introduction, *Exploring Our Heritage: The Ottawa Valley Experience* (1980), published with the financial assistance of the Foundation.

Outcroppings of stone are a familiar part of the landscape of eastern Ontario. Stone is most visible, however, above ground in the masonry of houses, commercial buildings, bridges, walls and canal works. Many of these structures are over a century and a half old yet remain in good condition. Their survival reflects not only the durability of their construction, but also the relative lack of intensive development. Although cleared and settled in the nineteenth century, the region has not experienced industrialization, urban sprawl and pollution as pervasively as areas to the southwest. The result has been beneficial for both natural heritage and cultural heritage. More wild areas have survived initial development than elsewhere, and abandoned farms have been reclaimed by nature. The prevalence of stone symbolizes this convergence of natural and cultural heritage.

Whereas most of southern Ontario is bounded by the Great Lakes, eastern Ontario is bordered by rivers. The St. Lawrence River runs along its southeastern edge; to the north lies the Ottawa River. As the two rivers come together near Montreal, they form a triangular territory. Its centre is dominated by a southern extension of the Shield known as the Frontenac Arch. Shaped like a wedge, it extends over northern areas of the region and narrows as it approaches the St. Lawrence River. The arch divides the region's two agricultural areas. The Great Lakes Lowlands lie on its southwestern side; to the northeast are the St. Lawrence Lowlands.





REHMER/SCHREINER PROPERTY

The 120 hectare Rehmer-Schreiner property lies in the heart of the Goodwood Swamp, a large wetland of over 1620 hectare straddling the Jock River, a tributary of the Rideau River. The area provides winter cover for deer and nesting habitat for many interesting birds such as the red-shouldered hawk, marsh wren, northern harrier and wood duck.

Lothar and Sascha Rehmer and their daughter Pamela Schreiner donated the property to the Foundation in 1992. It is managed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. Protection of the Rehmer/Schreiner property will help to secure the future of the entire Goodwood Swamp.



Rehmer/Schreiner property, Beckwith, Lanark County.



FALLON PROPERTY, ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

This property is on Stave Island, the third largest island in the scenic Thousand Islands area of the St. Lawrence River. A significant portion of the island is undeveloped, which enhances the wildlife of the entire area. It is part of a natural buffer zone to the adjacent St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

Ellenor and Richard Fallon donated a heritage conservation easement on their property to the Foundation in 1990.

The entire territory lies within the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest region. Before mass agricultural settlement, the lowlands were typically a mix of hardwoods such as maple, elm, beech, ash and oak, with coniferous softwoods such as spruce, balsam and cedar occupying poorly drained or sandy soils. Within this ecosystem are many smaller physical and ecological landscapes. Some are associated with wetlands of diverse flora and fauna. Others support rare plants such as the diminutive shrub rhodora, a small species of rhododendron not found elsewhere in Ontario. Tree species common in Atlantic Canada and New England – the pitch pine, red spruce and gray birch – appear in eastern Ontario at the western extremity of their range.

TYPES OF WETLANDS

Wetlands are transition zones from water to dry land.

There are five basic types: bogs, fens, swamps, marshes, and shallow open water. A bog is a peat-covered wetland with a high water table and a lack of nutrients. A fen is a peatland with a high water table, a low to moderate level of nutrients, and slow drainage. Swamps are wooded wet areas that are inundated at certain times of the year and, as a result, have continually waterlogged subsoils.

Marshes are submerged either constantly or occasionally and typically feature flora such as reeds, cattails, sedges and rushes. Shallow open waters are transition zones between marshes and lakes or ponds that have stagnant or slow-moving water and little emergent vegetation.



Brockville Long Swamp, northeast of Brockville.

This natural landscape provided the setting for one of the enduring mysteries about First Nations peoples in what became Ontario. When Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River in 1535, he reached Hochelaga, a substantial village at the site of present-day Montreal. The Iroquois who lived there had other villages in eastern Ontario; some have now been discovered and excavated by archaeologists. But when Samuel de Champlain arrived in 1613, these people had gone. Their fate remains unknown. Some archaeologists have suggested that they were either dispersed or absorbed by the Wendat (Huron).



BROCKVILLE LONG SWAMP AND FEN

The Brockville Long Swamp and Fen stretches across 678 hectares northeast of Brockville. It includes flora and fauna such as the prairie white-fringed orchid, the spotted turtle and the river otter. The Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Parks, assisted by grants from the Natural Heritage Challenge Program of the Foundation, have acquired a number of properties within this wetland.



ROEBUCK VILLAGE SITE

Some 500 years ago a site near present-day Roebuck contained a palisaded village of an Iroquoian agricultural settlement. Archaeological excavations have uncovered stone tools such as scrapers and adzes, bone needles and knives, pottery vessels and earthenware pipes, but very few weapons. [east of Roebuck]

When Champlain established himself in the St. Lawrence valley, an Algonkian people known as the Ottawa lived to the northwest along the upper reaches of the river that would be named after them. The Ottawa were the Wendat's closest neighbours and had borrowed aspects of Iroquoian culture such as the cultivation of corn, beans and squash. They remained dependent on various wild crops and game for food, however, and would migrate throughout the year to harvest maple syrup, wild rice and berries, to fish, or to hunt. They travelled waterways in canoes of birch bark sewn together with spruce roots over a wooden frame. They lived in wigwams—tent-like structures of birch bark stretched over a framework of saplings that could be easily constructed at new campgrounds.

The Ottawa River was the major route between the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes. Westbound travellers would canoe upstream to present-day Mattawa, then follow interior waterways, including Lake Nipissing, southwest to Georgian Bay. From there the traveller went westward through Lake Superior and onward to the western prairies. The Ottawa was also the most efficient course to the lower Great Lakes. Although the St. Lawrence offered a more direct route, upstream travel was impeded by treacherous rapids. For travellers bound for Lake Erie, the Ottawa also avoided the difficult portage around Niagara Falls.

The nature of water transportation had a profound effect on events after the arrival of Europeans. Champlain followed the Ottawa route when he visited Huronia in 1615. As a result, he forged an alliance with the Wendat on Georgian Bay. The French would not establish a strong presence on Lake Ontario for another half century. In 1673 the Governor of New France, Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac, founded Fort Frontenac at the site of present-day Kingston. Until it fell to the British in 1758, it served as a military outpost and transshipment point.

The north shore of the St. Lawrence was one of the first areas of Ontario to experience mass agricultural settlement. After the American Revolution, the British planned to leave western Quebec (present-day Ontario) as a buffer zone between the British and American territories. However, loyalist refugees in Quebec wanted farmland and petitioned to settle on the upper St. Lawrence. The First Nations in the region were willing to sell their lands and loyalists began to settle there in the mid-1780s. The British government granted the loyalists land and outfitted them with tools, clothing and provisions.



RENÉ-ROBERT CAVELIER DE LA SALLE AT CATARACOU

A major figure in the expansion of the French fur trade into the Lake Ontario region, La Salle (1643-1687) was placed in command of Fort Frontenac in 1673. Using the fort as a base, he undertook expeditions to the west and southwest in the interest of developing a vast fur-trading empire. [Kingston]

For further reading on the French heritage of Kingston, see Léopold Lamontagne, *Kingston: son héritage français* (1995), published with funding from the Foundation.



René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle.



MACDONELL-WILLAMSON HOUSE, TOWNSHIP OF EAST HAWKESBURY

John Macdonell (1768-1850) built the Late Georgian style "Poplar Villa" in 1817 after his retirement from the North West Company. The house served as the focus of his milling, general merchandise, warehousing and freight forwarding business on the Ottawa River. It was later acquired by the Williamson family.

After acquiring the property in 1978, the Foundation worked to stabilize the house and document the site. The Friends of the Macdonell-Williamson House currently act as custodians and hold heritage events at the property each year.



Macdonell-Williamson House.



THE QUAKERS OF ADOLPHUSTOWN

The Quakers who settled in Adolphustown Township in 1784 came mainly from New York State, and formed one of the earliest Quaker communities in the province. Although they were not "loyalists," since they had refused to bear arms for either side in the American Revolution, they were readily accepted into the predominantly loyalist community at Adolphustown. [Adolphustown]



Quaker meeting house built in 1868 on the site of the original 1798 building. Today only a small burying ground marks the location.



ST. RAPHAEL'S RUINS, ST. RAPHAELS

A mission for the Roman Catholic Highlanders of the Raisin River settlement was begun in 1786 by the Reverend Alexander Macdonell and later a small frame church, called the 'Blue Chapel', was built. St. Raphael's parish was officially recognized in 1802. The stone church, once a fine example of Canadian Neo-Classic design, was begun in 1821 by Macdonell. From 1807 to 1826, when Macdonell became Bishop of Regiopolis (Kingston), St. Raphael's was the administrative centre of the Church in Upper Canada. The stone building was gutted by fire in 1970. [St. Raphaels]



St. Raphael's Ruins, St. Raphaels, protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.

Many of the loyalists in Glengarry County, the region's eastern corner, were Scottish Highlanders. They encouraged clansmen to emigrate from Scotland and soon Glengarry County had a strong Scottish character. Its early history was also closely linked with the story of the North West Company and the fur trade. Prior to the British conquest of New France in 1759, French fur traders had competed with Britain's Hudson's Bay Company which reached the interior from its posts on Hudson Bay. After the conquest, Scottish traders took over much of the French trading system. They joined together to form the North West Company in Montreal in the early 1780s.



Bethune-Thompson House, Williamstown



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, 1812

St. Andrew's Church was built in 1812 to house the province's first Presbyterian congregation, which had formed in Williamstown in 1787.

*T*he Bethune-Thompson House in Williamstown owes its name to two prominent owners, the Reverend John Bethune and explorer David Thompson; but it was Peter Ferguson, an early settler, who first built a house on this site in 1784. Its walls were constructed using the French Canadian "poteaux sur sol" technique, which placed logs in vertical rows held together top and bottom by horizontal plates. Reverend John Bethune (1751-1815), the minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Williamstown and the first Presbyterian minister in Upper Canada, acquired the property in 1804. He built a larger house which incorporated Ferguson's home as its kitchen wing. In 1815, the house was acquired by David Thompson (1770-1857), the famous North West Company explorer who mapped much of what is now western Canada.



St. Andrew's Church, Williamstown.



Bethune-Thompson House, c.1900. The Ferguson part of the house is on the right.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation acquired Bethune-Thompson House in 1976. (Eleven years later it bought the adjacent hired man's house, a timber-framed structure from the early 1840s.) The Foundation's conservation strategy for Bethune-Thompson House integrated various heritage disciplines to provide a comprehensive approach to recording and restoring the site. Extensive archaeological, architectural and historical research was conducted before the property was restored between 1985 and 1987. The Bethune-Thompson project became a model that the Foundation followed in subsequent restorations of its properties.

The Bethune-Thompson House is the oldest residence owned by the Foundation. A custodian currently lives at this National Historic Site, which is opened for public viewing by appointment.



THE NORTH WEST COMPANY

Although its eastern headquarters were at Montreal and its inland depots at Grand Portage and later Fort William, the North West Company's roots were in Glengarry County. Many employees were recruited from the county's Scottish settlements and several senior partners made their homes in Williamstown. [Williamstown]

Scots settled in other parts of eastern Ontario as well, becoming a visible strand in the multi-ethnic fabric of the immigrant society. The British government encouraged disbanded soldiers to settle in the area. They included Huguenots, German-Americans from Pennsylvania – some of whom brought black slaves – Roman Catholic Highlanders and Scottish Presbyterians, as well as German Calvinists, German Lutherans, and Anglicans. Eastern Ontario continued to receive immigrants from Britain throughout the early nineteenth century. Its proximity to Lower Canada (Quebec) also made it a frontier of settlement for French Canadians. A strong francophone presence developed along the Ottawa Valley and up the St. Lawrence River as far as Cornwall. French Canadians constitute a larger part of the population here than anywhere else in southern Ontario.



Unveiling ceremony (Williamstown, 1958) for five provincial plaques: "St. Andrew's Church", "Bethune-Thompson House", "Sir John Johnson's Mills", "Fraserfield" and "Duncan Cameron".

Standing is John Keiller Mackay, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Seated fourth from the right is Professor George F. Stanley of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.



Auction sale flyer, Fraserfield, 1875.

Despite the diversity of settlers, the early architecture of the region has a distinctive appearance. The loyalists brought largely American architectural tastes, but their new political circumstances made them acutely conscious of the need to display their Britishness. Consequently, they built their larger residences and public buildings along British lines. This aesthetic was reinforced by the cultural preferences of the British immigrants who followed them. They included skilled stonemasons who came to work on the Rideau Canal and stayed to build many of the region's stone buildings. Over time American influences reasserted themselves, but the undercurrent of British classicism was never quite lost. Stone houses of stolid proportions distinguish the counties along the St. Lawrence "front" as well as the older communities in the interior. They feature squarish classical proportions, a balanced arrangement of doors and windows, and touches of classical detail such as fanlights over doors and columns flanking entranceways.



Élisabeth Bruyère.



ÉLISABETH BRUYÈRE, 1818-1876

In the 1840s, Bytown (Ottawa) was a growing timber-trade village with a substantial French-Canadian population but no Catholic schools and few social services. In February of 1845 the Sisters of Charity of Montreal (Grey Nuns) sent four nuns here. Led by Élisabeth Bruyère, a devout, well-educated young woman, the sisters quickly established a bilingual school for girls, a hospital and an orphanage. They helped the poor, the elderly and the sick, including hundreds of immigrants stricken during the typhus epidemics of 1847-48. By the time of Bruyère's death the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa had founded key local institutions and extended their services to sixteen other communities in Canada and the U.S. [Ottawa]



FRASERFIELD

Begun about 1812, this house, one of the finest country residences of its day, was the home of the Honourable Alexander Fraser, Quartermaster of the Canadian Fencibles during the War of 1812. Fraser became Colonel of the 1st Regiment, Glengarry Militia, in 1822 and served under Sir John Colborne in Lower Canada during the Rebellion of 1837-38. Elected in 1828 to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, he was appointed in 1839 to the Legislative Council. From 1842-49 he was the first Warden of the Eastern District, now the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. [west of Williamstown]



Homewood

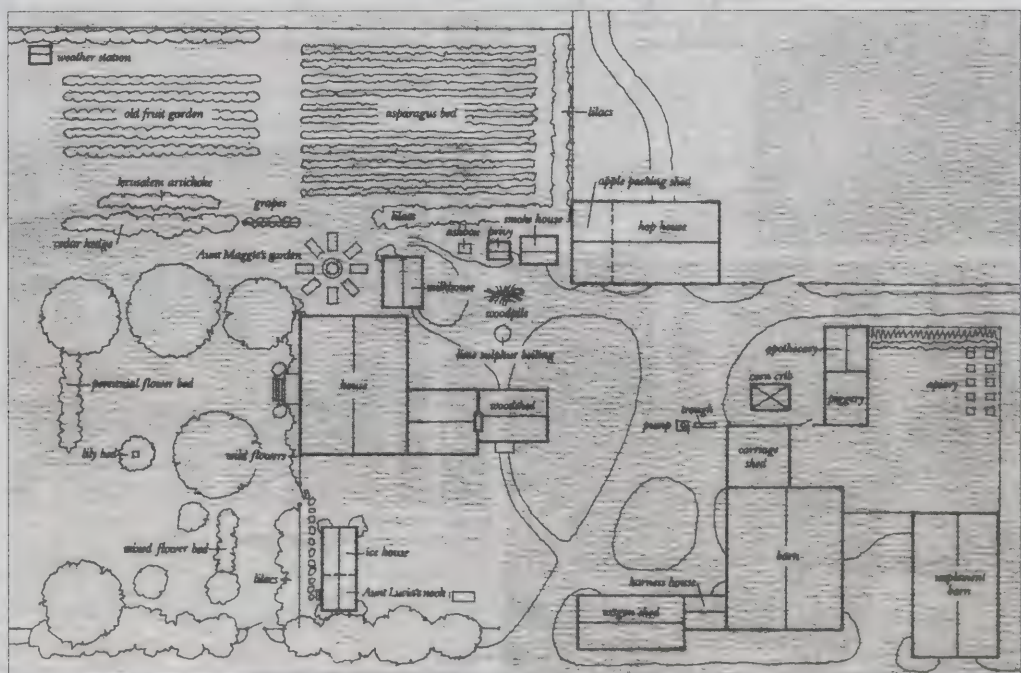


Homewood after restoration.

Many United Empire Loyalists settled in the St. Lawrence valley after the American Revolution. Dr. Solomon Jones (1756-1822) and his three brothers arrived in Augusta Township in 1784 to take up lands granted to them by the government. Jones commissioned Louis Brilli re, a Montreal mason and contractor, to build a 'gentleman's residence' in stone overlooking the river in 1799. Although "Homewood" was constructed in the late Georgian style, the simplicity of some of its details, especially the shutters and metalwork, show a French-Canadian influence. Located just outside the village of Maitland, near Brockville, Homewood became the home for six generations of the Jones family. In the 1940s, Justus Jones, the last owner, constructed an addition that matched the design of the original home.

In addition to being a surgeon, Dr. Jones was an accomplished farmer and avid grower of fruit trees. His great-grandson, Harold Jones, followed in his footsteps and received international recognition for developing the Jones Red Fameuse apple in the early 1900s. Between 1900 and 1930, Homewood was the St. Lawrence Fruit Station, a division of the federal Central Experimental Farms in Ottawa. Many of the station's original trees are still bearing fruit in the restored orchard today.

In 1965 Justus Jones sold the property to the Du Pont Corporation, an international chemical company, but continued living on the site until his death in 1972. Du Pont developed a portion of the property as a chemical plant and donated Homewood along with 4.5 hectares of land to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1974. The Foundation restored the site with the help of the Grenville County Historical Society and the Canadian Parks Service. In partnership with the Foundation, the Grenville County Historical Society operated a museum (1979-1994) illustrating different periods in the history of the Jones family.



The layout of Homewood's buildings and lands, c.1900



WILLIAM CAMERON EDWARDS, 1844-1921

A leading lumber producer in the Ottawa Valley, Edwards owned extensive mills in Rockland and Ottawa. As the member of parliament for Russell from 1887 to 1903, he vigorously promoted the interests of lumbermen in the establishment of provincial forestry policies. [Rockland]



Hauling logs in the Ottawa Valley.

Eastern Ontario's development was influenced significantly by the timber trade of the Ottawa Valley. The Ottawa River provided ready access to vast stands of white and red pine which could be profitably harvested and exported to Britain. Every year timber merchants sent gangs of lumbermen into the woods where they established camps known as timber shanties. They felled the trees, then floated them out on rivers during the spring run-off. As the years passed the trade moved up the Ottawa and its tributaries in search of new stands. It was past Bytown (Ottawa) by 1820, close to the Timiskaming District by 1840, and extended to the upper reaches of the Ottawa's larger tributaries by the 1860s.



Settler's cabin, Opeongo Road.

The timber trade employed many lumbermen, enriched a few merchants, and radically altered the natural heritage of the region. In their natural state, large tracts of forests would often be destroyed by fire and then regenerate. Lumbering was similar to this natural process. In a way, the early harvests along the Ottawa were even less devastating than fire because they took only the largest, most marketable trees. Still, within a few decades the timber trade harvested most of the accessible mature forest. In place of a patchwork of forest at varying stages of growth, it left an entire region denuded of mature trees. Over a century later, the region's forests have recovered only partially.

The timber trade shaped the growth of agriculture in the Ottawa Valley. The men who went into the bush provided local farmers with a lucrative local market. Unlike other farmers in southern Ontario, they did not have to grow wheat in order to have a cash crop. Farmers could make a good living simply by growing oats and barley for the timber shanties. Many supplemented their farm income by working in the timber trade during the winter months. The shanty market distorted the regular pattern of settlement by making it profitable to establish a farm on poor lands close to lumber operations. In the mid-nineteenth century, the government built a number of colonization roads to encourage agricultural settlement in northern areas. Unfortunately, these roads led into Shield country unsuited to agriculture. Despite the short growing season, homesteaders survived for a few years by selling their products to local shanties. Soon the marginal soils were exhausted. By the 1890s, the timber trade had exhausted the trees in the region. Only the settlers who had chanced upon pockets of good soil continued to make a living from farming.



THE OPEONGO ROAD

Part of a network of colonization roads constructed by the government to open the hinterland for settlement, the Opeongo Road was completed as a winter road from Farrell's Landing (Castleford) to Opeongo Lake by 1854. The offer of free, 100-acre lots along the road attracted many settlers to Renfrew County. [Renfrew]

The Foundation also has provincial plaques to the Addington Road, the Frontenac Road, the Hastings Road, and the Pembroke and Mattawan Road.



Tragedy at Inge-va



Archaeologist at Inge-va, 1988.



THE LAST FATAL DUEL, 1833

Here died the victim of the last fatal duel fought in this province, June 13, 1833. Two law students and former friends, John Wilson and Robert Lyon, quarrelled over remarks made by the latter concerning a local school teacher, Elizabeth Hughes. The dispute was aggravated by the prompting of Lyon's second, Henry Le Lievre, a bellicose army veteran. Lyon was killed in the second exchange of shots, while Wilson was acquitted of a charge of murder, married Miss Hughes, and became a member of parliament and a judge. [Perih]

Lyon was a nephew of Thomas Radenhurst and was apprenticing in his law office. His body was carried to a nearby house, likely Inge-va, following the duel. The plaque to the Last Fatal Duel is located at the entrance to the grounds of Inge-va.

Located in the heart of Perth, this late-Georgian stone residence was built in 1823 for Reverend Michael Harris, the first Episcopalian minister in the district. By 1833 it was the home of Thomas Mabon Radenhurst, a prominent lawyer in the community. Ella Inderwick purchased the property from the Radenhurst family in the 1890s and named it "Inge-va", a Tamil word meaning "come here". Her son Cyril, a founder of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 1933, inherited the property. Inge-va was donated to the Foundation by Cyril's wife Winnifred in 1974. The Foundation conducted an archaeological investigation of the property from 1987 to 1993. In 1989 Winnifred Inderwick bequeathed to the Foundation a collection of furnishings that provide insight into the history of the house and the wider Perth community. Following extensive research on the history of the house, the Foundation used funds provided by the provincial government to complete a major restoration of Inge-va in 1995.

Archaeologists made a startling discovery at Inge-va in 1988. While excavating the site of a privy from the Radenhurst period, they unearthed thousands of pieces of dishes, glasses and kitchenware. It appeared that at some point the Radenhursts had thrown out everything they had used to consume meals.

Why would they have done this? Historical research came up with a possible explanation. Between 1866 and 1873, five of the ten Radenhurst children fell ill and died. One death was attributed to typhoid fever and three to tuberculosis. The idea that disease could be caused by germs spread from one person to another was then gaining legitimacy in medical circles. It may be that the Radenhursts had disposed of all communal items that had been used by infected members of the family. Archaeologists at the Foundation have reconstructed 369 ceramic vessels and 283 glass objects from the Radenhursts' privy. This collection provides a direct connection with a poignant episode in the history of Inge-va and reminds us of the loss of life inflicted by contagious diseases in nineteenth-century Ontario.



Front elevation, Inge-va, 1992.



HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN CATTLE IN ONTARIO

In 1881 Michael Cook, a prosperous farmer, imported the first Holstein Friesian Cattle into Ontario. The breed quickly proved its worth and in 1886 was officially recognized by the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario as the leading milk producing breed. [west of Long Sault]

Along the St. Lawrence, agriculture followed much the same pattern as in the rest of southern Ontario. The best farmlands were located along the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario shores, in Glengarry County and in a broad swath of interior lands between Kingston and Arnprior. The worst were in sandy sections of Prince Edward County and the rocky, acidic soils of the Shield. Many of these poorer lands were settled before their lack of agricultural potential was appreciated. By contrast, arable lands in Glengarry, Prescott, and Russell counties remained undeveloped because they were flat and too wet. The value of wetlands was not appreciated at the time, and by the 1860s they had been drained and put to the plough.

Wheat farming sustained most farmers in the southern parts until the 1850s, when soil exhaustion and infestations of wheat midge began to affect yields. Casting around for alternatives, the region's farmers noted the growth of dairy farming in neighbouring New England states. Improved transportation made it possible to ship perishable products to markets in the United States and Britain. Farmers around the Bay of Quinte, in the counties along the St. Lawrence shore, and the lower Ottawa Valley began to switch to cheese and butter production. Cheesemaking was particularly popular, especially after new American factory production processes were adopted. After a few years of experimentation, the cheeses and butter of eastern Ontario developed a good reputation in export markets. Dairy farming proved more lucrative for the area's farmers than wheat farming had ever been. Its growth was accompanied by gradual improvements in stock as farmers bred their best milk producers to improve their herds. In time eastern Ontario farmers were able to sell their livestock in U.S. markets as well.



A sketch of the locks at the northern entrance to the Rideau Canal at Bytown by Thomas Burrowes, 1834.

The government played a critical role in developing transportation in the region. After the War of 1812, British military strategists worried that an American attack across the St. Lawrence would sever communications between Upper and Lower Canada. They began to explore the possibility of constructing an inland waterway that would be less exposed to attack. Such a route would have commercial advantages as well because it could circumvent the rapids of the upper St. Lawrence. Military engineers settled on a route that would connect a series of rivers and lakes between Bytown on the Ottawa River and Kingston on Lake Ontario. Construction of the Rideau Canal began in 1826 and was completed in 1832. Considered a marvel of engineering in its day, the canal stimulated trade in the region but was not large enough or direct enough to rival the Erie Canal as a major export route to the Atlantic.

WORKERS ON THE RIDEAU

"Between 1826 and 1832 thousands of French Canadians and recently arrived immigrants, notably Irish, Scottish and British, were recruited to work on the Rideau Canal. Working with only simple tools, they toiled 14 to 16 hours a day, six days a week, excavating, quarrying, and clearing the land to construct the locks and the dams. Many died from dangerous conditions, malaria and other diseases at sites such as Kingston Mills and in the shantytowns where their families lived. Workers protested their predicament on occasion but the deployment of soldiers along the canal served to inhibit such unrest. The canal was a project of the British army but it could never have succeeded without the efforts of the civilian workers and their families."

In 1993, the Local Marking Program of the Foundation supported the erection of this plaque in partnership with the Kingston and District Labour Council.



THE BROCKVILLE TUNNEL, 1860

The railway tunnel running under the city of Brockville was constructed between 1854 and 1860 to give the Brockville and Ottawa Railway access to the river front. The oldest railway tunnel in Canada, it was used by steam locomotives until 1954. [Brockville]



DANIEL McLACHLIN, 1810-1872

An astute lumberman, McLachlin recognized the timber potential of the Madawaska watershed and in 1851 purchased a large tract of land at the site of Arnprior. Shortly thereafter he laid out a town plot and constructed sawmills at the mouth of the river. [Arnprior]

It would be another twenty years before a series of canals were constructed to bypass the St. Lawrence's rapids. No sooner were they completed than water transportation was superseded by the new technology of the railway. The commercial towns of eastern Ontario tried to secure an advantage over rival centres by building railways to direct the flow of goods in their direction. Prescott built a railway to Bytown, Kingston constructed a line to Pembroke, and Brockville launched an ambitious scheme to link itself by rail to Sault Ste. Marie. After 1856, all of these communities were linked together by the Grand Trunk. The government subsidized these and other railways by guaranteeing their financing.

The origins of the towns and cities of eastern Ontario reflect the region's diverse history. After the War of 1812, the British government wanted to establish military settlements that would aid in defending the region. It set up communities such as Perth and Lanark by dispensing town lots to military officers who were demobilized and pensioned off at half their pay. Other communities developed primarily as market towns. Along the St. Lawrence, Trenton, Belleville, Cornwall and Brockville benefited from river locations with good natural harbours. In the days of water transportation and waterpower, these locations were crossroads for trade in agricultural goods. The rivers also provided power for grist mills and larger industries that developed later in the century. Towns like Carleton Place and Almonte took advantage of the waterpower of the Mississippi River to become centres of textile manufacturing. In contrast, market towns like



Lithograph of Arnprior, 1855, showing Daniel McLachlin's sawmilling complex at the junction of the Madawaska and Ottawa rivers.



BOOKS ON EASTERN ONTARIO

The following books, published with funding from the Foundation, provide further reading on the development of towns and cities in the eastern Ontario region: Brenda Lee-Whiting, *Harvests of Stone: The German Settlement in Renfrew County* (1985); Norman Pagé, *La Cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Ottawa; histoire, architecture, iconographie* (1988); Richard Reed, *The Upper Ottawa Valley to 1855, The Champlain Society, Vol. XIV* (1990); Larry Turner, *Perth: Tradition & Style in Eastern Ontario* (1992); and Glenn Lockwood, *Smiths Falls: A Social History of the Men and Women in a Rideau Canal Community, 1794-1994* (1995).



Martintown Grist Mill, Martintown.

Smiths Falls, Merrickville and Newboro grew faster because of their locations on the Rideau Canal. Along the Ottawa River, Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior and Hawkesbury prospered from the timber trade. Trenton and Belleville also benefited from the regional timber trade that flowed through their sawmill and harbour facilities.

Government has also made a significant contribution to economic growth. As county seats, many of the aforementioned communities derived advantage from their role as administrative and judicial centres. In the twentieth century, government nuclear research transformed the communities of Deep River and Chalk River in the upper Ottawa valley. Construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway had the greatest impact of any government effort. It was built in the late 1950s to replace the small canals of the nineteenth century with a waterway able to accommodate modern ocean-going vessels. The centrepiece of the project was a huge dam built at Cornwall that flooded the river for miles upstream and generated hydro-electric power.



THE MARTINTOWN GRIST MILL

This mill was built in 1846 to replace part of a milling complex developed by Malcolm McMartin early in the century. Like similar operations throughout the province, the McMartin mills provided essential local services in an era of poor transportation. They served area residents by sawing timber, carding wool, fulling cloth and grinding grain. The mills and their associated tavern and store attracted tradesmen and residents, creating the village of Martintown. Malcolm McMartin's son Alexander, builder of the mill, became an influential local businessman, militia leader and politician. His grist mill survived in a market increasingly dominated by larger competitors until it ceased operations in 1951.



Architecture in Eastern Ontario



Pinhey Estate, Kanata.

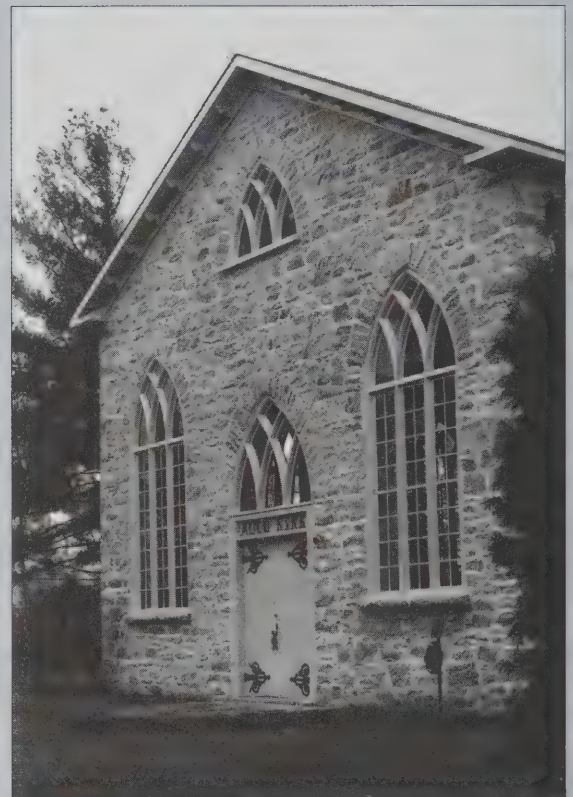
Hamnett Kirkes Pinhey settled here in 1820 and established a farm, sawmill, grist mill and the first school and church in the area. Pinhey was a district agent for the Canada Land Company, a Justice of the Peace for Bathurst District, a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Carleton County, the representative for March Township on the District Council of the United Province of Canada, and a Warden of Dalhousie District. Ten of the twenty-three structures and ruins on the site pre-date 1840. The two and one-half storey Georgian stone house was constructed in three phases over the period 1820 to 1840. It is now operated as a museum; an easement protects the exterior and interior. Horace Pinhey is recognized by a provincial plaque located on the grounds of his estate.



Pakenham Bridge, Pakenham.

Built in 1901, this stone-arch bridge stretches 220 feet. It is similar to the stone bridge at Lyndhurst that is also protected by a Foundation heritage conservation easement.

The Foundation has been involved in many projects which have restored buildings that represent the historic architecture of eastern Ontario. These structures all received provincial funding towards their restoration and have subsequently been protected by heritage conservation easements held in trust by the Foundation.



Auld Kirk, Almonte.

This stone church, built in 1836 in the Gothic Revival style, is still in occasional use. It is recognized by a provincial plaque located on its grounds and protected by a conservation easement on its exterior.



Former Napanee Post Office, Napanee. Thomas Fuller, Canada's Chief Architect from 1891 to 1897, designed seventy-eight post offices across the country. The Napanee Post Office, an excellent example of his work, is one of ten remaining Fuller post offices in Ontario.



Layer Cake Hall, Bath.

Constructed in 1859 by Abraham Harris, this Gothic Revival-style building was built as a Mechanics' Institute. It was soon used by Presbyterians, Freemasons and Anglicans. As a result it became known as the Layer Cake Hall. The hall is in use today as a community library; its exterior is protected by an easement.



Carleton Place Town Hall, Carleton Place.

This town hall was designed by George W. King of Toronto and constructed between 1895 and 1897. It is an example of the 'Richardsonian Romanesque' style that was popular in North America in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The interior displays fine examples of woodwork in pine and ash and decorative pressed metal ceilings which, like the exterior, are protected by a heritage conservation easement. The building is still in use as municipal offices.



Frontenac County Courthouse, Kingston.

Designed by architect Edward Horsey, the Frontenac County Courthouse features a central hemispherical dome twenty-eight feet in diameter. Contractors Scobell and Tossell built the courthouse between 1855 and 1858. The limestone for its walls was quarried on site. A Foundation easement protects the building's heritage exterior. The building, still functioning as a courthouse, sits on a hill overlooking a city park and the lakefront.



Cole's Shoal Lighthouse, St. Lawrence River, Brockville.



This lighthouse is the last of a group of nine completed between 1855 and 1857 to improve night-time navigation through the Thousand Islands. It was acquired in 1972 by the Foundation with donated funds.



THE SUBMERGED COMMUNITIES OF THE ST. LAWRENCE

The construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and the creation of Lake St. Lawrence necessitated the flooding of several villages along the river front in 1958. Some buildings were relocated and new communities such as Long Sault and Ingleside were established. [west of Cornwall]

The Seaway inundated lands that had been above water for thousands of years. Riverside communities dating back to the European arrival were flooded and Ontario lost a good deal of its loyalist architecture. The province saved some historic structures and used them to create Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg. The natural heritage of the Great Lakes suffered because the Seaway allowed access for foreign species. The first notorious interloper was the lamprey eel, which decimated lake trout populations and crippled the Great Lakes fishery. More recently, the zebra mussel followed the same route into the Great Lakes with equally devastating effect.

The presence of government is particularly evident in the economies of Ottawa and Kingston, the region's two largest cities. Kingston's early growth was based on its location as a transshipment point between the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario; Bytown (Ottawa) benefited greatly from the timber trade. Since then, however, development has been driven by government activities. Commerce along the Rideau Canal contributed significantly to their growth in the nineteenth century. At mid-century the British government spent hundreds of thousands of pounds making Kingston the military stronghold of Upper Canada. Kingston also profited as the capital from 1841 to 1844. The Kingston Penitentiary, which dates back to the 1830s, is one of five penitentiaries in the area today. Add in Queen's University and the Royal Military College, and it is evident that public institutions have made a significant contribution to the city's economy.

Ottawa became Canada's national capital after Confederation. Its role as a centre of government transformed a lumber town into the major city of the region. Its economy has diversified in recent decades as knowledge-based industries located there to take advantage of the educated work-force established by government. While the nation's capital develops suburbs, satellite communities and private industry based on high technology, the rural environs have witnessed abandoned farms and a decline in population. Ottawa's educated populace and cosmopolitan culture contrasts with the traditional rural life of surrounding areas.



FIRESTONE ART COLLECTION, OTTAWA

In the early 1970s, Dr. O.J. Firestone and Isobel Firestone donated an extensive collection of Canadian art to the Foundation. They subsequently bequeathed their home and an endowment to house and maintain the collection. An economist with the Government of Canada and later a professor at the University of Ottawa until his retirement in 1978, Dr. Firestone continued to donate artworks from his collection to the Foundation until 1987.

The Firestone Art Collection is the foremost collection of Canadian art ever donated to a public body by individuals. It consists of 1,476 paintings, drawings and sculptures by one hundred different artists. The Firestones began collecting works of the Group of Seven painters in the early 1950s. Pieces by the Group of Seven make up half of the collection. They later expanded their collection to include Ontario artists who were predecessors or contemporaries of the Group, artists from Quebec and British Columbia and, less extensively, painters from the Atlantic and prairie regions.

In 1978, the Foundation published the **Firestone Art Collection**, a study of the artists in the collection and the Firestones' contribution as collectors and donors of art. Originally Dr. Firestone acted as resident curator of the collection, which was open to the public by appointment only. Parts of the collection were exhibited in Canada and abroad. In 1992, ownership was transferred to the City of Ottawa in trust for the Arts Court Gallery in Ottawa. The transfer fulfilled the Foundation's interest in having the collection remain in Ottawa at a institution that would provide it with public access and appropriate care. The Firestone Art Collection is an important cultural attraction for residents and tourists in Ottawa.



Firestone Residence, Rockcliffe Park, 1992.

Fulford Place, Brockville

Senator George Taylor Fulford made millions from “Pink Pills for Pale People”, a patent medicine he manufactured in Brockville and sold around the world. Fulford recognized the commercial potential of the readership developed by mass-circulation newspapers and built his business on saturation print advertising. He constructed Fulford Place, a 20,000 square foot Edwardian mansion, between 1899 and 1900. The house is surrounded by grounds designed by Frederick Olmstead of the Olmstead landscaping firm and contains many of the original furnishings selected by Senator Fulford.

In 1987, George T. Fulford, the son of Senator Fulford, donated Fulford Place to the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The contents of the mansion were later donated by his widow Jutta Fulford and his son George Fulford III. The Foundation undertook an extensive restoration of the site with funds from the provincial government and opened it to the public as a house museum in June 1993.



Panorama, Fulford Place, c.1904.



Front Parlour, Fulford Place, 1993.

The Friends of Fulford Place Association, an incorporated volunteer body, assists the Foundation in the operation and public interpretation of this National Historic Site. The Friends lead tours of the house and grounds, conduct research, create interpretive displays and raise funds for restoration and interpretive projects. The Foundation is building on its relationship with the Friends of Fulford Place to develop partnerships with other local cultural enterprises to coordinate resources and marketing in an effort to increase the audience for all of Brockville's cultural attractions. The Foundation's work at Fulford Place provides an example of how partnerships between public heritage organizations and local groups can work to conserve and promote a community's heritage.

Kingston offers a positive example of heritage conservation. In the 1950s it was one of the first communities in Ontario to develop an appreciation of its early architectural heritage and to take deliberate measures to preserve it. In recent years, its well preserved downtown public and commercial buildings have attracted tourists and shoppers, fostering a growth of retail businesses that trade on its heritage character. Other communities have followed Kingston's lead, restoring their heritage buildings, sprucing up their parks, and cultivating their local histories in a successful effort to attract visitors. Their downtowns feature stores that sell merchandise consistent with the architecture – Victorian antiques, folk art, rustic furnishings, country crafts, and gifts. Country inns, bed and breakfasts, and upscale restaurants have sprung up to serve those staying for more than a few hours.

The Foundation's conservation work has contributed to the growth of heritage tourism and retailing in the region. Hundreds of provincial plaques provide constant reminders of important local subjects, and the Foundation has saved and restored many significant buildings. In some cases, these properties are used by community groups; in others, volunteers assist the Foundation in providing public access and interpretation. Partnerships of different elements – the private-sector, public agencies and community volunteers – have done much to preserve the cultural heritage of eastern Ontario. Their combined efforts provide a model for future heritage conservation, both cultural and natural, throughout the province.

Chapter Six

NORTHERN ONTARIO



Swastika, 1912.

"The Laurentian Shield in Northern Ontario has spawned both a national, and an international image of Canada. Its essence is the blue wilderness lake, surrounded by shivering pine and birch, the tranquility interrupted by the haunting cry of the loon or the whispering paddle of the solitary canoeist... Until the 1880s, Northern Ontario was that wilderness, and while shadows remain, the towns and cities in the Shield have altered its texture." C.M. Wallace in Matthew Bray and Ashley Thomson (eds.), *At The End Of The Shift* (1992), published with funding from the Foundation.

Northern Ontario comprises about 80 per cent of the province's land mass, yet its population is only a small percentage of the Golden Horseshoe's. Even so, its heritage resources are subject to development pressures. The majority of its residents live in the southern part of the region in urban areas centred around the resource industries of lumbering and mining. And these towns and cities, just like those in southern Ontario, must balance conservation with development. Northern Ontario also has its own unique conservation issues. Its natural heritage is vulnerable to primary industries which consume natural resources or can pollute the environment. The boom-and-bust cycles of a resource-based economy present unique challenges for cultural heritage as well.

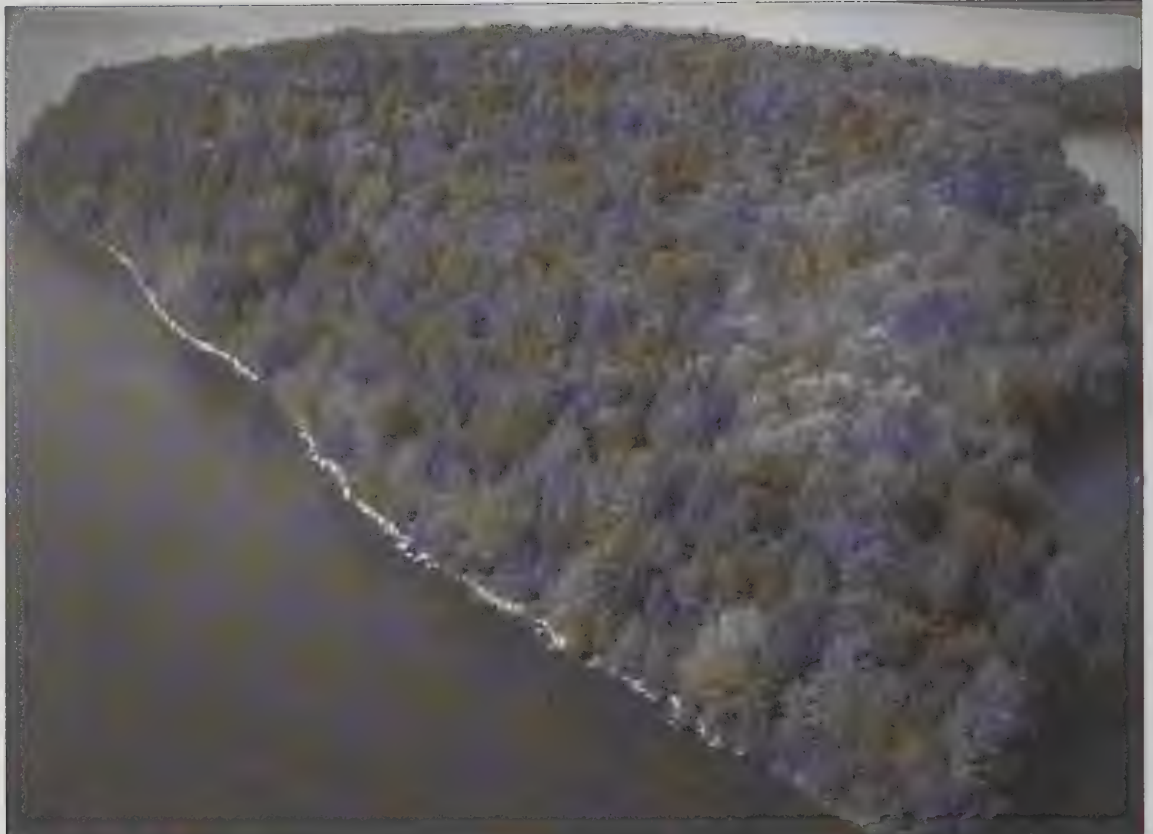
Most of northern Ontario lies within the Laurentian Shield. At its highest point, it divides the area into the Arctic Watershed, where waters flows northward into James Bay and Hudson Bay, and the Great Lakes Watershed, in which waters flow south into Lake Superior and Lake Huron. The rivers running off the Shield to the north enter the Hudson Bay Lowlands, a coastal plain that extends up to three hundred kilometres inland from the saltwater shoreline. The Lowlands are underlain by sedimentary rocks that are 400 million years old, relative newcomers compared to the billion-year-old rocks of the Shield. Because it is relatively flat and close to sea level, this area has poor drainage and waterlogged soils.





THE PALISADES OF THE PUJAWABIK

The pillar-like features of the sheer-rising cliffs at several points along the Lake Nipigon shoreline are the dramatic result of erosional and glacial activity that began more than a thousand million years ago. [about 38 kilometres north of Nipigon]



Great Manitou Island, Lake Nipissing.



MANITOU ISLANDS PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE

Great Manitou is the largest of four islands in eastern Lake Nipissing that are part of Manitou Islands Provincial Nature Reserve. These islands are home to over 50 species of breeding birds and feature large osprey and great blue heron nesting sites. Conservation of the islands was a cooperative effort of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Foundation.

The Foundation purchased most of the land on Great Manitou Island in 1982 with a donation from Hilda McLaughlin Pangman in remembrance of Peter Pangman, a founder of the North West Company. In the days of the fur trade, these islands provided a resting place for voyageurs travelling between Montreal and western Canada.

Climatic differences helped to shape the different vegetation zones within these regions. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest that covers most of southern Ontario extends north to Temagami in the east and Marathon in the west. Farther north it is replaced by Boreal Forest dominated by white and black spruce, but also including jack pine, poplar and birch. At the northern limits of the Boreal Forest, trees dwindle in size until they are replaced around Hudson Bay and James Bay by tundra underlain by permafrost.

A few pockets do not fit into these landscapes. The Shield, for instance, contains small stretches of arable land known as the clay belts which are formed by deposits from glacial lakes. South of the Shield in the east, Manitoulin Island, actually a part of the Niagara Escarpment, contains farmland similar to that of southern Ontario. In the west the Rainy River District features prairie farmland that, prior to settlement, supported a forest dominated by oaks and elms.



MISERY BAY, MANITOULIN ISLAND

The Ontario Paper Company owns a site of 121.5 hectares (300 acres) at Misery Bay that includes bulrush marsh, sphagnum bog, limestone alvar, wet cedar forest, and saturated rush and sedge communities. The site is adjacent to the Ministry of Natural Resources' Misery Bay Provincial Nature Reserve and provides a buffer between the reserve and adjacent private lands. The Ontario Paper Company donated a conservation easement to the Foundation in 1983, the first natural heritage easement in the province.

The vast and varied territory of northern Ontario supports a variety of animals. The polar bears roaming the shores of Hudson Bay are an example of a species perfectly adapted to its environment. Each spring, females emerge with their cubs from winter dens to hunt seals, beluga whales, walrus, and other sea life. The warmth of spring sunshine sets the tundra ablaze with purple, yellow, and white wildflowers. Vast colonies of snow geese arrive from the south to nest and to raise young in the long summer days on the tundra. Arctic foxes stalk the goose colonies to feed their new kits. These are but a few examples of the many links in the complex food chain on a land once known as "the barrens".



Limestone Alvar, Misery Bay, Manitoulin Island.

HARVAIS-BARCLAY ORCHID RESERVES

The Foundation accepted a bequest from the estate of the late Gaetan Harvais in 1985 and established the Harvais Bequest Fund. The annual interest is directed to the protection and maintenance of the showy lady slipper orchid site in Dorion Township, Thunder Bay District.

The Shield to the south is home to a wide range of animals commonly associated with the wilderness: beaver, loon, black bear, moose and wolf, as well as insects such as the blackfly and the mosquito. These species range across both the Boreal and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence forests. The numerous wetlands provide rich habitat for ducks and geese and are also home to brightly coloured birds such as warblers, cuckoos, and vireos. One bird specifically adapted to the northern woods is the crossbill, whose strange-looking beak enables it to open and feed upon spruce and pine cones. Once less biologically diverse than warmer climes, the ecosystem has retained more indigenous species than developed parts of southern Ontario.



Showy lady's slipper, Harvais-Barclay Orchid Reserves, Dorion Township, Thunder Bay District.

The first humans arrived in the wake of retreating glaciers about nine thousand years ago. Like the original immigrants into southern Ontario, they hunted big game. Over the centuries their descendants supplemented hunting with gathering and fishing. The acidic soils of the Shield have destroyed most of the material artifacts left behind by these people, so that archaeologists know them primarily by their different styles of stone tools and weapons. Some of the later peoples created rock paintings (pictographs) or rock outcrop carvings (petroglyphs) depicting images of spiritual significance that provide insights into their cultures and beliefs.



Cow moose.



The Foundation has helped publish a number of books which address the heritage of First Nations in Ontario's north. Its grants subsidized the following publications: Patrick J. Julig, *Ontario Archaeological Report 2 The Cummins Site Complex and Paleoindian Occupations in the Northwestern Lake Superior Region* (1994). Archaeologist Pat Julig prepared this report on the excavation of a site at Lake Minong near Thunder Bay where up to 9,500 years ago native peoples quarried stone and fashioned it into tools and weapons. John Macfie and Basil Johnson, *Hudson Bay Watershed: A Photographic Memoir of the Ojibway, Cree, and Oji-Cree* (1992). This volume documents the traditions and skills of the First Nations in the north prior to the arrival of modern technology. Daphne Odjig [with R.M. Vanderburgh and M.E. Southcott], *A Paintbrush in My Hands* (1992). A striking account of the life of a First Nations painter and her art. Anne-Marie Mawhiney, (ed.), *Rebirth: Political, Economic, and Social Development in First Nations* (1993). An examination of the First Nations of Northern Ontario and their contemporary aspirations.



Language preservation is a priority for First Nations. A number of projects funded by the Foundation in the late 1980s and early 1990s addressed this concern. In 1989, for example, the Foundation supported "Anishnabamda", a project of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation on Manitoulin Island which videotaped elders as they explained the customs, traditions and philosophy of the Anishnabe people. Subsequently a series of books based on this oral history were produced to assist primary school students in learning the Anishnabe language.



HENRY HUDSON AND THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

In 1610 Hudson navigated the treacherous Hudson Strait and explored the inland waters of Hudson Bay. After a bleak winter in James Bay the intrepid navigator was cast adrift in an open boat by his mutinous crew on their journey back to England. [Moose Factory]

When Europeans first arrived in northern Ontario, it was occupied by Algonkian peoples who followed a seasonal way of life centred on hunting, gathering, fishing, and trading. These peoples spoke Algonkian but with distinct dialects in different parts of the region. The two major groups were the Ojibwa and the Cree, whose territories were roughly equivalent to the region's two drainage basins, with the Cree in the north and the Ojibwa in the south.

Europeans' initial contacts focused on trading for beaver furs which were prized because their barbed hairs made a high quality felt for hats. In 1670, King Charles II of England chartered the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and gave it a trading monopoly through the entire Hudson Bay drainage basin. The territory was called Rupert's Land in honour of Prince Rupert, the King's cousin and the company's first governor.



Henry Hudson, from William H. Withrow, *A Popular History of the Dominion of Canada* (c.1893).

Manitou Mounds, Rainy River



Manitou Mounds, 1992.

*T*he greatest known concentration of First Nations burial mounds in northern Ontario is adjacent to the Long Sault Rapids on the north shore of the Rainy River. Manitou Mounds is the largest ceremonial grouping of burial mounds in Canada. It was declared a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1969.

The mounds are accompanied by archaeological evidence which shows that there was 5,000 years of continuous native occupation of the area up to the early twentieth century. At that time the federal government relocated the aboriginal population. The land changed ownership, and later part of it became a gravel pit.

In the 1980s, the Rainy River First Nations secured federal and provincial help to conserve the site. At the request of the federal and provincial governments, the Foundation acted as a trustee on behalf of the Rainy River First Nations to protect and secure the mounds. It assumed ownership of part of the site in 1987. The Rainy River First Nations and the Foundation worked in partnership to protect the mounds from erosion and water damage from the river. They also regraded gravel pits and replanted them with local vegetation to preserve the area for future interpretation. An interpretive centre was opened in 1996. It houses exhibits and educational programs which explain the significance of Manitou Mounds in the heritage of First Nations.



FORT LAC LA PLUIE

An important North West Company post situated between the Red River and Fort William, Fort Lac La Pluie (or Rainy River House) was the centre of much activity in the fur trade during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It served as a meeting place for traders from Montreal in the east and those from the Athabaska country to the west. [Fort Frances]

Erected in 1956, this was the first plaque put up by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario. It does not have the standard provincial plaque design because the board did not formally launch its provincial plaque program until later that year.

The Foundation has a number of other provincial plaques which mark historic sites and subjects related to the fur trade in northern Ontario:

- Temagami Post 1834, Bear Island, Lake Temagami
- Mattawa House 1837, North of Mattawa
- Kenogamissi Post, South of Timmins
- Fredrick House, East of Timmins
- The de Troyes Expedition, Iroquois Falls
- Moose Factory, Moose Factory
- Whitefish Lake Post, Naughton
- Hudson's Bay Post 1856, Little Current
- North West Company Post, Sault Ste. Marie
- Pic Fur Trading Post, Marathon
- Long Lake Posts, Longlac
- Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Dulhut 1636-1710, Thunder Bay
- William McGillivray 1764-1825, Thunder Bay
- The Capture of Fort William 1816, Thunder Bay
- Fort Kaministiquia 1717, Thunder Bay
- The Union of the North West and Hudson's Bay Companies 1821, Thunder Bay
- Jacques de Noyon 1668-1745, Fort Frances
- Sieur de La Vérendrye 1685-1749, Fort Frances
- Osnaburgh House 1786, South of Pickle Lake
- Umfreville's Exploration 1784, Sioux Lookout
- Red Lake House, Red Lake
- Rat Portage Post, Kenora

The French, based in the St. Lawrence valley, also began trading for furs north of the upper Great Lakes in the late 1600s. Their Ottawa River-Lake Nipissing-French River route into the interior roughly defined the southern boundary of the region. As the search for furs drew them further inland, the French became the first Europeans to explore the continent's interior. Soon northern Ontario was fringed with European fur-trading posts on the shores of the Great Lakes and Hudson Bay.

Following the British conquest of New France in 1760, independent Scottish traders took over much of the French trading system. They consolidated into the North West Company in the early 1780s. The Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company battled for control of the fur trade throughout the late eighteenth century. The British government eventually tired of their violent clashes and forced amalgamation under the Hudson's Bay Company name in 1821.



Fort Lac La Pluie, Fort Frances.

Canoe Routes and Portages



The canoe routes of northern Ontario were devised by native peoples as they travelled the region over the centuries. Europeans learned of these waterways from native groups and used them to explore and trade. A series of rivers, lakes and portages connected Montreal and Lake Superior, Lake Superior and Hudson Bay and Lake Superior and the northwest. The Foundation has a number of provincial plaques identifying these canoe routes and portages:

- Canoe Route to the West, Mattawa
- La Vase Portages, North Bay
- Route of the Voyageurs, north of Little Current
- Michipicoten Canoe Route, Wawa
- Nipigon Canoe Route, Nipigon
- Grand Portage, Middle Falls Provincial Park
- Mountain Portage, Kakabeka Falls
- Great Dog Portage, Dog Lake
- Savanne Portage, Raith
- French Portage, Quetico Park.



LA VASE PORTAGES

The three La Vase (Mud) portages, connecting Trout Lake with La Vase River and hence Lake Nipissing, formed part of the historic canoe route to the west. True to their name, they were described by one despondent traveller as "an abominable marsh... knee-deep in mud and tree roots". [North Bay]

In 1994 the Foundation provided funds to assist with the purchase of the portages by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority.



Hudson's Bay Company Staff House and Servants' Houses, Moose Factory Island

Continually inhabited since 1730, Moose Factory is the oldest English-speaking community in what is now Ontario.

In 1977, the Hudson's Bay Company donated its Staff House at Moose Factory to the Foundation. One of the symbols of the company's long presence in the fur trade of the north, it was constructed in 1850 to provide sleeping quarters for bachelor employees. The Staff House was built of squared logs using techniques borrowed from British ship building. Spikes joined the logs together; the corners were simply butt-ended. Between 1982 and 1984, the Foundation acquired the Joseph Turner House (1864), the William McLeod House (1890) and the Ham Sackabukisham House (1926), all traditional timber frame structures built for Hudson's Bay Company tradespeople, and relocated them near the Staff House in Centennial Park.



Staff House, 1869 (third from left).



Staff House, 1987.

These structures have been extensively restored with funds provided by the federal and provincial governments. For many years the Foundation has worked in partnership with the Ontario Northland Railway to provide public access and programming at the Staff House.



MOOSE FACTORY

The second oldest post of the Hudson's Bay Company was built at the mouth of the Moose River by Governor Charles Bayly in 1673. This early fortified establishment was captured in June, 1686, by a French expedition from Montreal under the Chevalier de Troyes, and renamed St. Louis. Though restored to Britain in 1713 by the Treaty of Utrecht, the post was not re-established until 1730-32. Largely destroyed by fire in December, 1735, it was rebuilt over the following two years. Long the Company's principal establishment on James Bay, its isolation was ended in 1932 by the completion of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway to Moosonee. [Moose Factory]



KENSINGTON TERRACE, SAULT STE. MARIE

Constructed in 1865, Kensington Terrace was the home of Wymess Simpson, the last Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Post in Sault Ste. Marie. Simpson called his Georgian style residence "Upton." In 1867, he became the first federal member of parliament for Algoma.

In 1989, the Foundation provided a grant to assist with the restoration and conversion of Kensington Terrace into three condominiums by Heritage Sault Ste. Marie Inc. The exterior is protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.



Kensington Terrace, Sault Ste. Marie, restored, 1989.

Afterwards, the HBC used only its northern route into fur trading territory. Posts such as Sault Ste. Marie, Fort William (Thunder Bay), and Rat Portage (Kenora) were no longer as important. Their decline was offset by a growing number of missions established by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Methodist churches to convert natives to Christianity.

Until mid-nineteenth century, transportation followed natural waterways using the native technology of the birch-bark canoe. In the 1850s, canals and railways suddenly changed the region's age-old transportation patterns. In 1855, a railway from Toronto reached Collingwood on Georgian Bay, providing access to the upper Great Lakes from southern Ontario. Montreal was effectively supplanted by Toronto as the metropolis that controlled the main transportation route into the region. A canal was constructed on the American side of Sault Ste. Marie that same year, enabling large ships to reach Lake Superior from Lake Huron.



THE TIMISKAMING MISSION, 1863

The Roman Catholic mission originally established at Fort Timiskaming on the eastern shore of Lake Timiskaming in present-day Quebec was relocated to the Ontario shore of the lake in 1863. Here the mission comprised a presbytery for the Oblate fathers, a small hospital operated by two Grey Sisters of the Cross and eventually a frame church. [Mission Point, Lake Timiskaming]



The Timiskaming Mission, provincial plaque unveiling.
Mission Point, Lake Timiskaming, 1965.



THE CHICORA INCIDENT, 1870

In 1870 the United States refused to permit the steamer *Chicora*, carrying Colonel Wolseley's Red River expedition, to pass through the locks at Sault Ste. Marie. This incident led to the construction of a Canadian canal, which was completed in 1895. [Sault Ste. Marie]

The Upper Canadian government paved the way for settlement by negotiating treaties with the native peoples. In 1850, the Ojibwa surrendered their territory along the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior. Manitoulin Island, which the government had set aside in 1836 as a reserve for native groups, was now coveted by land-hungry farmers. In 1862 the government negotiated a new agreement that restricted native peoples to smaller reserves and opened the remainder of the island to settlement. By Treaty No. 3, the Ojibwa relinquished their land west of Superior to the federal government in 1878.



Sault Ste. Marie Canal under construction, 1880s.



ONTARIO BOUNDARY DISPUTE

Following the acquisition in 1869 by the Dominion of Canada of the territories of the Hudson's Bay Company, the western and northern boundaries of the province of Ontario became a matter of ongoing dispute. The matter was finally settled in 1884. [Kenora]

In 1869 the Canadian government purchased Rupert's Land from the Hudson's Bay Company. Although the HBC lost its commercial monopoly of the region, it would continue to dominate the trade in furs. It was some time, however, before Rupert's Land became part of Ontario. The federal government preferred to retain the land and its potential wealth for itself. The dispute between the provincial and federal governments over the province's western and northern limits took decades to resolve.

Victorian Ontarians generally regarded the Shield as a vast wasteland. As resources were discovered and arable lands opened up, this perception was replaced by the equally erroneous assumption that Northern Ontario would develop in much the same way as the south. This belief was encouraged by settlement of the farmlands of the Little Clay Belt and Manitoulin Island. But unlike southern Ontario, where a widespread export agriculture had provided the economic foundation for urban and industrial development, farming in the north would be restricted to a few small areas where there was an adequate growing season, suitable soils, and a local market.



KAPUSKASING INTERNMENT CAMP, 1914-1920

When the First World War began, Canada established internment camps to detain persons viewed as security risks. Prejudice and wartime paranoia led to the needless internment of several thousand recent immigrants. The majority were Ukrainians whose homeland was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. One of the largest camps was built at a remote railway siding. Despite harsh conditions, some 1,300 internees constructed buildings and cleared hundreds of acres of spruce forest for a government experimental farm. In 1917 most were paroled to help relieve wartime labour shortages. Thereafter the camp held prisoners of war and political radicals, including leaders of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. [Kapuskasing]



Kapuskasing Internment Camp c.1920.



Haileybury after the great fire of 1922.

Farming here followed the same pattern as early agriculture in the Ottawa valley. In fact, the first farmers were French-Canadians who followed the timber trade into the Little Clay Belt north of Lake Timiskaming in the 1850s. Small pockets of agricultural settlement subsequently developed around timber operations on the north shore of Lake Huron, at the Lakehead, and in the Rainy River-Lake of the Woods district. The federal government's Dawson Trail opened up farmlands in the Rainy River area. The province also actively promoted agricultural settlement, opening lands for farms in the Nipissing and Algoma regions in the 1860s. Other farming areas developed around Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Dryden, and Kenora. The province built the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, completed to Cochrane in 1908, to encourage settlement of the Great Clay Belt. In 1913 the National Transcontinental Railway passed through the same region, paving the way for settlement westward to Kapuskasing and Hearst.

Although pioneers worked hard in isolation and under adverse conditions, farming expanded until the 1920s. By then the region's agricultural limitations were becoming apparent. The same transportation improvements that opened up the lands of the north enabled more productive southern farmers to compete in northern markets. Many disappointed homesteaders either abandoned their land or else farmed on a part-time basis only. The Depression accelerated abandonment. Less than half the acreage farmed in 1931 was still under cultivation fifty years later.



THE GREAT FIRE OF 1922

In early October 1922, scattered bush fires burning north of Haileybury were united by high winds into a mammoth forest fire that swept through eighteen townships. Several communities were destroyed and more than 5,000 people left homeless. Snow and rain finally brought the blaze under control. [Haileybury]

The Foundation also has provincial plaques to the Porcupine Fire of 1911 and the Great Fire of 1916, similar disasters that claimed many lives in northern Ontario.



A number of recent histories of northern Ontario emphasize the contributions of ordinary people to the building of communities. The following were funded by the Foundation: Thorold J. Tronrud & A. Ernest Epp (eds.), *Thunder Bay: From Rivalry to Unity* (1995); Dan Douglas, *Northern Algoma: A People's History*, (1995); Mercedes Steedman, Peter Suschnigg and Dieter K. Buse (eds.), *Hard Lessons: The Mine Mill Union in the Canadian Labour Movement*, (1995).



THE ONTARIO NORTHLAND RAILWAY

Begun at North Bay in 1902, the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway (renamed the Ontario Northland in 1946) was completed to Moosonee on James Bay thirty years later. With spur lines connecting mining communities and isolated settlements to the main line, the railway effectively stimulated the economic development of north-eastern Ontario. [North Bay]



On July 15, 1932 the "last spike" of the Ontario Northland Railway was officially driven in at Moosonee.



THE SUDBURY STRUCTURE

"Sudbury Structure" is a collective name for the unique geological feature which encompasses this city. Its central component is the Sudbury Basin, a shallow elliptical depression 60 kilometres long. It also includes the Sudbury Igneous Complex, a ring of hills rimmed by ore which surrounds the Basin, and the Sudbury Breccia, fragmented rocks extending 80 kilometres from the Complex. Scientists continue to seek an explanation of the Structure's origin. Some think it is a crater produced by a meteorite crashing into the earth 1,850 million years ago; others attribute it to a volcanic explosion. Since 1884, mines on the rim of the complex have produced much of the world's nickel and substantial amounts of copper, gold, silver and platinum. [Sudbury]



Stand of white pines in late nineteenth-century Ontario.



A fascinating description of the life of an English family that settled in northwestern Ontario is provided in Hazel Fulford, *When Trains Stopped in Dinorwic: The Story of Eric Rhind* (1990), published with the assistance of the Foundation.

Instead the mining and forest resource industries became the mainstays of the northern economy. The timber trade had cut its way north from the Ottawa Valley into the southeastern parts of northern Ontario by the middle of the nineteenth century. When the new stands of red and white pine were depleted, timber companies leap-frogged on to the rich pineries between Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, and between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods. Most rich stands were accessible by water and had been cut by the century's end. The first mines were also established along water routes. A copper mine was developed at Bruce Mines in the 1840s and a lucrative silver mine established on a tiny islet near Fort William in the 1860s.

The arrival of the railway accelerated the development of primary resource industries. This was, however, not the original purpose of the lines. The Canadian Pacific Railway was built across the region in the 1880s primarily to connect existing areas of settlement in eastern and western Canada. It was followed by the Canadian Northern and the National Transcontinental. In 1883 a CPR employee made the first discovery of copper-nickel deposits near Sudbury. Similarly, a worker on the province's Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway discovered silver at Cobalt in 1903. Even when the railways did not encounter mineral deposits along their routes, they brought prospectors into new regions and offered a way to ship minerals out. Cobalt provided a base and a supply of capital for prospectors who went on to discover silver at Gowganda, and gold at Porcupine and Kirkland Lake. Over the next two decades new strikes were made farther west: gold at Red Lake, Pickle Lake, and Little Long Lac; and a huge iron ore deposit at Steep Lake. New discoveries of minerals would continue as the century progressed.



Silver mining, Cobalt, c.1910.



PORCUPINE MINING AREA

From the 1880s onward, as railways opened up northern Ontario, prospecting activity in this region intensified. The Porcupine gold rush began in 1909 following three significant discoveries. Thousands of prospectors and miners poured into Tisdale and neighbouring townships to stake claims. By 1912 several mines were in operation, including the celebrated "Big Three": Dome, Hollinger and McIntyre. That year, the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway opened a branch line from South Porcupine to Timmins which made it easier to bring in the heavy machinery needed to mine the hard rock of the Canadian Shield. For a number of years the Porcupine gold fields produced more gold than any other region in North America. The area continues to be an important source of valuable minerals. [Timmins]



COBALT MINING CAMP

The initial discovery of silver deposits in this area was made in 1903 by lumbermen searching for timber for railway ties, and led to one of the most intensive mining rushes in Ontario history. In the 1930s the demand for silver assured the economic stability of the mining camp despite a sharp reduction in the price of silver. [Cobalt]



For an account of the impact of boom and bust cycles on northern Ontario, see Matthew Bray and Ashley Thomson (eds.), *At the End of the Shift: Mines and Single-Industry Towns of Northern Ontario* (1992), published with the support of the Foundation.



Mather-Walls House, Keewatin

*T*he Foundation purchased the Mather-Walls house in 1975. Between 1975 and 1984 it conducted extensive research, then undertook a complete restoration of the site.

The nineteenth-century economy of Keewatin was based on sawmills and flour mills founded by John Mather who was instrumental in establishing the community and providing housing for mill employees. The site for the house was chosen as an integral part of the mill complex. Its location above the Keewatin Flour Mill allowed observation of the comings and goings of the mill employees.



Mather-Walls House, 1890.



Mather-Walls House, restored, 1987.



Archaeological excavations at Mather-Walls House, 1980.

The house was designed in the Queen Anne style by Winnipeg architect George Browne. It has a picturesque roof line, verandas, fine interior wood trim and hardware, and windows in a variety of shapes and forms decorated with panes of coloured glass. In 1906 the house was purchased by John Walls, foreman at the mill.

The Lake of the Woods Historical Society has operated the Mather-Walls House, since it opened in 1985, under an agreement with the Foundation. The Society holds its meetings and hosts community events on the premises, and in the summer months conducts public tours.



KAGAWONG MILL, 1925

This building is a monument to two major Ontario resource industries. Built to process local spruce into pulp, it diverted water-power from the Kagawong River to drive its heavy machinery. Wet pulp was baled and shipped to Michigan to make Sears-Roebuck catalogues. The pulp mill closed with the onset of the Depression, but reopened in 1932 as a hydro-electric plant. Until 1949 it was the sole source of electrical power for Manitoulin Island. Ontario Hydro operated the plant from 1946 until an increasing supply of electricity from the mainland led to its closing in 1961. Thirty years later, local volunteers restored the building for community use. [Kagawong]



Kagawong Mill.



WHITE OTTER CASTLE

Woodsman Jimmy McOuat completed this house in 1915 when he was sixty years old. Ever since people have wondered why and how he built it. McOuat claimed that as a child in the Ottawa Valley he was once scolded "Ye'll never do no good! Ye'll die in a shack!" and that he resolved late in life to avoid such a fate. Single-handedly he felled trees, winched them from the woods, and hewed them square. With block and tackle he raised massive logs onto platforms and into place. Roofing and windows were hauled in across fifteen portages from Ignace. McOuat drowned nearby in 1918, leaving this wilderness mansion as his monument. [north of Atikokan]

The railways also initiated a new phase in exploiting the forest by providing access to the Boreal forest of the Hudson Bay drainage basin. In the late nineteenth century the rise of mass newspapers created a demand for newsprint, and quality newsprint could be made from spruce, the dominant tree in the Boreal forest. Pulp and paper mills were built where the railways crossed rivers which provided both waterpower and transportation for logs. Pulp and paper emerged as one of the region's primary industries in the twentieth century.

The people of northern Ontario come from a diverse array of cultural backgrounds. Its original inhabitants, the First Nations, have occupied the region for thousands of years and continue to be a strong and visible presence in the region today. After the mid-nineteenth century they were joined by successive waves of European migrants. Ontarians of British descent spread out across the region, while French-Canadians settled in a belt stretching west from Quebec through Cobalt, North Bay, Sturgeon Falls, and Sudbury. These two dominant groups were followed by thousands of recent immigrants searching for work in the region's resource industries. There are large communities of Finns and Ukrainians in Ontario's north, and a number of other nationalities including Italians, Germans, Scandinavians, Poles, Dutch, Belgians, Swiss, Greeks, Czechs, Slovaks, Chinese and Japanese. New arrivals have gravitated towards communities of their compatriots, reinforcing the north's multicultural character.



White Otter Castle, 1996.



Franco-Ontarian Heritage in Northern Ontario

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Foundation funded a number of conferences, exhibits, research projects and books dealing with the heritage of Franco-Ontarians in northern Ontario. It supported a travelling exhibit from Le Centre franco-ontarien de folklore in Sudbury, "Le Conte populaire en ontario français". In addition, the Foundation funded a project in 1989 which instructed children how to use a comic book format to illustrate traditional Franco-Ontarian stories. Two years later, the first provincial symposium on Franco-Ontarian heritage, co-sponsored by Le Regroupement des organismes du patrimoine franco-ontarien (ROPFO) and the Foundation, was held in Sudbury. It attracted nearly a hundred delegates from archives, museums, historical and genealogical societies, folklore groups, and cultural institutions across the province.

Books the Foundation has sponsored include the following:

Guy Gaudreau avec Paul de la Riva, Marc Despatie, Hélène Lavoie, Geneviève Ribordy, Michel Rodrigue, et Marie-Claude Tremblay, **Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, 20 ans** (1991);

Jean-Pierre Pichette, **Répertoire ethnologique de L'Ontario français** (1992);

Jean-Pierre Pichette, **L'Oeuvre de Germain Lemieux**, (1992);

Guy Gaudreau avec Blanchette, Despatie, Dubé, Landry, LeBlanc, Perreault, Taillefer, et Valiquette, **Documents historiques du centre des jeunes au Carrefour francophone, 1951-1990, Quarante ans de vie communautaire et culturelle à Sudbury** (1992);

Michel Brock, Pierre Ouellette, Julie LaFrenière et Jacques Taillefer, **Bâtir sur le roc: De L'ACFÉO à L'ACFO du grand Sudbury 1910-1987** (1994);

La Société François-Xavier Charlevoix, **Études franco-ontariennes** (1995);

Guylaine Poissant, **Portraits des femmes du nord ontarien** (1995).



SACRED HEART COLLEGE.

The Society of Jesus opened a classical college at this site in 1913. The next year the province granted Sacred Heart College a charter giving it degree-granting powers. At first the college was bilingual, but after 1916 it taught exclusively in French. Sacred Heart College became a centre for the education and formation of young Franco-Ontarian men. In 1957, it changed its name to the University of Sudbury, which became the Catholic component of Laurentian University in 1960. The Jesuits continued to teach secondary school here until 1967. Sacred Heart College played a major role in the development of the Franco-Ontarian community of northeastern Ontario. [Sudbury]

Sir Harry Oakes Chateau, Kirkland Lake



Sir Harry Oakes Chateau, Kirkland Lake.

Harry Oakes (1874-1943) discovered gold at Kirkland Lake in 1912 and, unlike most prospectors, was able to develop his discovery and maintain a controlling interest in it. Oakes became a multi-millionaire. He used profits from his Tough-Oakes Mine to develop the Lakeshore Mine in Kirkland Lake in 1917. In 1929, Oakes constructed a house for his use during his visits to his mining properties; his permanent home was in Niagara Falls. The house is a combination of the Craftsman and Shingle styles. One of its interesting features was its underground garage for six to eight vehicles.

In 1934, Oakes moved to the Bahamas as a protest against the Canadian tax system. He was knighted by King George VI in 1939. Four years later, Oakes was murdered at his Bahamas home. The crime remains unsolved.

The Foundation acquired the Harry Oakes Chateau in 1981. It is now operated by the City of Kirkland Lake as the Kirkland Lake Museum of Northern History.



"Reesor Siding Incident", 1963, provincial plaque unveiling, 1996, Reesor Siding.

From left to right: Norman Rivard, President, Kapuskasing local of the Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada (IWA); Ken Signoretti, Executive Vice-President, Ontario Federation of Labour; Mercedes Steedman, member of the Foundation's Board of Directors; Wilf McIntyre, President, Thunder Bay local, IWA.

Dependence on resource industries has rendered many northern communities susceptible to boom-and-bust cycles. The ease of water and rail transportation make it relatively easy to take raw materials out and bring manufactured goods in. As early as 1898, the provincial government encouraged the development of secondary manufacturing by forbidding the export of unprocessed sawlogs. Outside lumber companies were forced to build sawmills within the region. This "manufacturing condition" was subsequently imposed on the pulp and paper industry, fostering the growth of mills. The province had less success, however, in applying a manufacturing condition to mining. Nevertheless, iron mines at Michipicoten provided the basis for the Algoma steel mills at Sault Ste. Marie. Thunder Bay has developed the most diverse industrial economy, but many other communities have suffered from single industry dependency. Mining communities became ghost towns when the ore ran out and the mines closed. The pulp and paper industry has come to grips with the problem in recent years by adopting conservation practices that will enable sustainable harvests in the future.



"The Kenora Thistles", 1907 provincial plaque unveiling, 1960, Kenora.

Fifth from the left is W.G. McGimsie, centre of the 1907 Kenora Thistles.



REESOR SIDING INCIDENT, 1963

One of the bloodiest clashes in Canadian labour history took place at a railway siding halfway between Kapuskasing and Hearst. In January 1963, a contract dispute led to a strike by members of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union who cut pulpwood for the paper mill in Kapuskasing. They tried to shut down the mill by blockading pulpwood shipments from independent contractors. Just after midnight on February 11, over 400 strikers arrived at Reesor Siding to dump logs stockpiled by a local woodcutters' cooperative. As they approached the woodpiles, 20 armed woodcutters began shooting. Three of the strikers were killed, another eight wounded. The tragedy prompted the provincial government to intervene and settle the strike by arbitration. [Reesor Siding]



THE KENORA THISTLES, 1907

In January 1907, a hockey team from Kenora, comprising E. Giroux (goal), A.H. Ross (point), S.I. Griffis (cover point), T. Hooper (rover), W. McGimsie (centre), R. Beaudro (right wing), and T. Phillips (captain and left wing), defeated the Montreal Wanderers in two challenge games at Montreal to win the Stanley Cup. The team was coached and trained by J.A. Link. The trophy, emblematic of the Canadian championship, had been presented by the Governor-General, Baron Stanley of Preston, in 1892. Kenora is the smallest town ever to win the cup. [Kenora]

For many reasons, it proved difficult for labour to organize northern industries. Geographical isolation of various industries inhibited cooperation between labour organizations. The companies themselves often displayed a freewheeling frontier ethos that was hostile to unions, and workers fired for union activities had few other employment opportunities in a single industry town. Cultural misunderstandings between employers and immigrant workers often exacerbated relations between management and labour. It was not until the Second World War, when labour was in short supply, that unions made significant headway in the mines and forest industries. After the war, the gains were challenged by management. A number of bitter clashes ensued but unions increasingly became a fixture in the workplace.

The internal combustion engine revolutionized life in the twentieth century. It has transformed the forest industry by turning the felling, trimming, and cutting of trees into an automated process and allowing year-round operations. It also revolutionized transportation. Aviation overcame both the huge spaces and the rugged terrain of northern Ontario. Airplanes and helicopters transport prospectors, conduct geological surveys, cruise for timber, and fight fires. They keep remote communities in contact with larger centres and provide access to essential services.



CANADA'S PIONEER AIRLINES

Western Canada Airways, based at Hudson in 1926, was one of the earliest airlines established in the country. Along with other pioneer companies it stimulated the development of the northern region and laid the groundwork for commercial aviation in Canada. [Hudson]



"Canada's Pioneer Airlines", provincial plaque unveiling, 1962, at Hudson, west of Sioux Lookout.

Second from left, Charles Robinson, one of the pioneer pilots of the area; third from left, S.A. Tomlinson, former mechanic with Patricia Airlines; fourth from left, George C. Wardrobe, Minister of Mines; fifth from left, H.A. "Doc" Oaks, pioneer bush pilot.

An Ontario Heritage Foundation provincial plaque at Science North in Sudbury commemorates Austin Airways, one of the aviation firms that helped open up Ontario's north.



THE TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

This plaque is at the halfway point of the Trans-Canada Highway which runs from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia. Its construction, in conjunction with the provinces, was authorized by the federal parliament in 1949. The official opening for through traffic of this 4,859-mile route, of which about 1,453 miles are within Ontario, took place on September 3, 1962. However, with the completion of a section of highway 11, between Longlac and Hearst in 1944, it had been possible previously to cross Ontario from Quebec to Manitoba within the province. The opening of the Trans-Canada highway provided a superior and shorter artery drawing together widely separated regions of Ontario.

[Batchawana Bay]



An early example of attempts to protect wilderness is commemorated by the Foundation's provincial plaque, Quetico-Superior, in Quetico Provincial Park. Designated a wilderness district in 1909 by the governments of the United States, Minnesota and Ontario, Quetico-Superior is one of the world's largest international wilderness areas.

For a discussion of the debate in the late 1980s over wilderness preservation in northern Ontario, see Matthew Bray and Ashley Thomson (eds.), *Temagami: A Wilderness Debate* (1990), published with the support of the Foundation.

The automobile has also made considerable inroads into the southern part of the region. Early in the twentieth century, the Ontario government sponsored road-building programs aimed at integrating the north into the provincial highway system. Road building on the Shield was difficult and expensive work that required frequent rock blasting and bridge building. In the 1920s Premier Howard Ferguson ordered construction of a road from Muskoka to North Bay. The "Ferguson Highway" was opened to Matheson in 1927 and was extended across the Great Clay Belt, reaching Port Arthur at the end of the Second World War. From there, what became the Trans-Canada Highway had been completed west to the Manitoba border since 1935. Still, the fastest route between the north-west and northeast was a ferry between Sault Ste. Marie and Port Arthur, or American highways south of Lake Superior. Not until 1960 was the Trans-Canada Highway completed along the north shore of Lake Superior.

The completion of a modern highway system has allowed tourists to enjoy the rugged beauty of the wilderness from the comfort of their cars. Ontario's north has benefited from a substantial growth in tourism since the Second World War. The increasing popularity of outdoor recreation has also fuelled the tourism industry. Northern Ontario is a favourite destination for hunters and fishermen as well as campers, paddlers, hikers, and rock-climbers. Its wild areas attract visitors from as far away as Europe and Japan. Wilderness tourism has made the natural heritage of the north one of its great economic assets. In an attempt to accommodate the contending interests of tourists, sportsmen, environmentalists, and traditional resource industries, the province has set aside a variety of provincial parks and game preserves in the region.



TOURIST PAGODA, THUNDER BAY

The Tourist Pagoda in Thunder Bay, formerly Port Arthur, was designed by H. Russell Halton and constructed in 1909. Its style resembles late nineteenth century park pavilions. Its distinctive features include an 'O.G.' roof line and a carved stone panel set over the entrance with a beaver surrounded by maple leaves.

In 1988, the Foundation provided funding to restore the interior and exterior of the Tourist Pagoda. Both its interior and exterior are protected by a heritage conservation easement held in trust by the Foundation.



Tourist Pagoda, Thunder Bay.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation's conservation work in northern Ontario has arisen naturally out of the region's unique heritage. Although the fur trade has survived into modern times, it has long since been eclipsed by other resource industries. Still, northern Ontarians consider the fur trade and the missions that followed in its wake to be significant parts of their cultural heritage. For many major posts and portages, as well as for missionaries and missions, the only visible reminders are the Foundation's plaques. Foundation properties like the Hudson's Bay Staff House and the Mather-Walls house also represent the heritage of industries that once shaped the region. These aspects of cultural heritage, significant as they are, pale in comparison to the region's natural heritage. The resource industries that have shaped the region will present a challenge to natural heritage conservation for generations to come. But unlike the south, most of the north remains a wilderness in which a balance between conservation and sustainable development may still be achieved for the future.

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